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CONTENTS

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 July Middle East and South Asia Review 1

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Comments on Peace Prospects *[Rome L'ESPRESSO 3 Jul]* 4
Al-Quds Radio Criticizes Call No 21 6

ARAB AFRICA

Chad

Libyan Overflights in North Reported 7 Jul 8
'Satisfaction' Expressed Regarding Libya Talks 8

Egypt

Reportage on Visit by King Husayn of Jordan 8
Arrives in Cairo 8
Talks Begin *[PETRA-JNA]* 8
King Husayn, Mubarak Comment 9
King Discusses Arms Deals 9
Concludes Visit, Departs 10
AL-AHRAM Comments on Downing of Iranian Plane *[6 Jul]* 10

Libya

Chad Overflight Denied; U.S. Satellite Blamed 10
Al-Qadhdhafi Invites Palestinian Leaders *[Belgrade TANJUG]* 11
Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit 11
Received by Al-Qadhdhafi 11

Sudan

Ethiopia Protests Spokesman's Statements 11
Communique Demands Constitutional Conference *[Radio SPLA]* 12
AL-RAYAH Reports Split in Garang Movement 13

Tunisia

Committee on Palestine Makes Recommendations 13

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Speedboats Attack Romanian Ship 7 Jul *[INA]* 14

Kuwait

Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd Arrives in U.S. 14
U.S. Visit Previewed 14
Defense Minister Signs Contract With USSR 15

Diplomatic Relations with Seychelles Established 16
Iranians Seize Fishing Boats, Release Crew 16
Daily Cited on Senate Refusal of Missile Request 16
AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Downing of Iranian Airbus *[6 Jul]* 16

Saudi Arabia

Customs Foil Pilgrims' Arms Smuggling Attempt 17
Hizballah Branch Threatens Airbus Reprisals *[AFP]* 17

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Denies Arms Deal With U.S. 17

IRAQ

'Aziz Sends Message to UN's Perez de Cuellar 19
Iran Allegedly Kills Iraqi POW's in Mawat Area 20
UN Notified 20
Arab Envoys Briefed 20
ICRC Help Sought 20
PDRY President al-'Attas Arrives in Baghdad 20
Reportage on Visit of Egyptian Ministers 21
Minutes Signed 21
Delegation Departs 21
Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities 22
Communique No 3,250 22
Bombings, Shellings Denied 22
Communique No 3,252 22
Sar Dasht Shelling Denied 23
Communique No 3,253 23
Communique No 3,254 23
Shelling of Cities Denied 24
Iranian F-5 Figher Shot Down 24

ISRAEL

Soviet Union To Supply Sukhoi-24's to Syria *[DAVAR 11 Jul]* 25
Reportage on Reaction to UK-Saudi Arms Deal 25
Foreign Ministry Protests 25
Agreement 'Deplored' *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Jul]* 25
Ben-Aharon Comments on Deal 25
Deal Has 'No New Dimensions' 26
'Iranian Threat' Prompted Deal 26
Peres Cited on Effects 26
Delegation to USSR Within 'Next Few Days' 28
Envoy Reports 'New' PLO Stand on Autonomy *[THE JERUSALEM POST 10 Jul]* 28
Government To Return Confiscated Funds 28
Arab Mayors Return From Fund-Raising in Jordan 28
More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories 29
10 Ordered Expelled 29
Youth Killed in Tubas 29
5 Gaza Arabs Detained 29
General Strike, Disturbances 29
Rioters, Soldier Wounded 30
Youth Killed in Jabalyah 30
6 'Slightly Wounded' in Riot 30
Ramallah Area 'Sealed Off' 30
Youth Shot Dead in Riot 30
Cabinet Briefed on Disturbances 30
Administrative Detention for 2 31
'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered 31

IDF Wounds Arab Youth 31
Bus Hit With Molotov Cocktail 31
2 Firebombs Thrown in Gaza 31
Committee Decides To Support Uprising Legally 31

JORDAN

King Husayn Makes Working Visit to Cairo 32
Departs Amman 9 Jul 32
Returns Same Day 32
Minister Denies Call for Political Party *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Jul]* 32
Official on Treatment of 'Uprising' Wounded 32

LEBANON

UK Paper Says 10 Hostages Taken Out of Beirut *[KUNA]* 33
Fadlallah Urges U.S. Withdrawal From Gulf *[IRNA]* 33
Fatah Opposition Leader Cited on 'Arafat's Plans 33
Accused of 'Massing Troops' *[VOL]* 33
Car Bombings Planned *[Damascus]* 33
Fatah Denies Plans for 'Battle' in Sidon *[Voice of Palestine]* 34
Birri Returns From Talks in Damascus 10 Jul 34
Syria's Al-Asad, Al-Jumayyil To Meet in August *[MENA]* 34
Islamic Amal Leader Cited on Overthrow of Regime *[VOL]* 34

SYRIA

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Tunisian Delegation 35
Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Leader 10 Jul 35
Al-Asad Discusses Lebanon With Scholar Fadlallah 35
Al-Zu'bi Offers Condolences Over Airbus Downing 35
Friendship Societies Formed With Cyprus 35
Commentaries View Palestinian Camps Fighting 35
Radio Cites AL-THAWRAH 35
Radio on Burj al-Barajinah 36
Radio Cites AL-THAWRAH 9 Jul 36

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Cordovez Views Implementation of Geneva Accords 37
Urges 'Private' Talks 37
Departs for Islamabad 38
UN Given 42d Memorandum on Pakistan 'Violations' 38
43d Memorandum Delivered 38
Soviet Embassy Briefs Press on POW's in Pakistan 38
Minister of Culture, Bank Governor Appointed 39
Armed Forces, Rebel Operations, Clashes Continue 39
40 Injured in Kabul Blast *[AFP]* 39
64 Casualties in Jalalabad 39
Kabul, Qandahar Attacked *[Islamabad]* 39
Fighting in Nangarhar, Qandahar 40
'Satanic' Nests Destroyed 40
Herat, Vardak Rebels 'Crushed' 40
Civilians Injured in Ghazni 41
38 Casualties in Nangarhar 41
Stinger Launch System Seized 41
Farah Province Rebels 'Crushed' 41
Rebels Overrun Position *[Islamabad]* 41
Rebels Capture 9 Posts *[Islamabad]* 41
'Extremist' Groups Clash 41

India

Rajiv Gandhi To Begin Tour of 4 Nations 11 Jul 41
Senior Air Marshal Bypassed for Command, Resigns *[AFP]* 42
Defense Minister on Naval Buildup, Pakistan Arms 42
Prospects for U.S. Policy Change Toward Pakistan *[INDIAN EXPRESS 4 Jul]* 42
58 Gurkha 'Activists' Released Under Accord 43
50 More 'Activists' Released 43
Gurkhas Favor Amended Hill Council Proposals 43
Pakistani 'Intruder' Killed in Gurdaspur 44

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons 44
Majlis Speaker, Montazeri on Upgrading Forces 48
Further Reportage, Comment on Downing of Airbus 49
World Reaction to Accident 49
Thatcher's 'Blind Support' 50
Syrian Envoy Comments 50
Libyan Charge Deplores Incident 50
Sheykh ol-Eslam Interviewed 50
Iran Air Pilots Reject U.S. Claims 51
Pentagon 'Cover-Up' Suspected 52
Security Council Plans Debate 52
Velayati Departs for UN Debate 53
Interior Minister at Memorial 53
More Bodies Recovered 53
Draft on Confidence Vote Proceeding Approved 53
Further on Proceedings Bill 53
UK 'Indirect Arms Sales' to Iraq Possible 54
Reports of Purchase of U.S. Helicopters Denied 54
Commander Denies Iraqi Claim of Downing Plane 54
IRGC Issues Communique Calling for Volunteers 54
Forces Leave for Fronts 55
Tehran University Volunteers 55
More Units Depart 55
Commentary on Need for Mobilization Forces 55
Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue 56
Communique No 3,257 56
Iraqi Plane Overflies Ilam 57
Jets Bomb Iraqi Forces 57
Communique No 3,258 57
Communique No 3,259 57
Iraq Chemically Bombs Cities 58
Chemical Bombs Injure 150 58
Iraq Uses Toxic Gas on Marivan 58

Pakistan

Protesters Burn U.S. Flags Over Plane Downing *[AFP]* 58
Reportage on Visit by UN Envoy Diego Cordovez 58
Briefs Yaqub Khan 58
Holds News Conference 59
Leaves for New York 10 Jul 59
Foreign Minister's Trip to Iran Postponed 59
Yaqub Khan Departs for Saudi Arabia 9 Jul 59
President Criticized for Dissolving Parliament *[AFP]* 59

11 July Middle East and South Asia Review

LD1107130188 [Editorial Report]

Iran and the United States

Western press reports that Iranian leaders differed in their response to the downing of the Iran Air plane were sharply denied by 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio.

The Majlis speaker and acting Armed Forces commander in chief told worshippers that "no such thing" occurred and that "all officials are united" behind Iran's "revolutionary leadership" and agree on the need to "struggle against U.S. interests."

Stressing that he is "99 percent" certain that the Americans knew what kind of airplane they were firing at, Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted that the United States "planned" the downing of the Airbus to provoke Iran into a "crude retaliation."

He warned that if such acts become "commonplace" and can be committed "without shame," the Americans will "suffer most" because "any minor movement" or "suicidal individuals" will attack U.S. airliners. Attacks on airliners "are the easiest acts for any terrorist to commit," he warned.

On world reaction to the incident, Hashemi-Rafsanjani contended that the mass media have reacted "relatively well," but he said it is a "tragedy" that the U.S. nation should "sink so low" that the majority of public opinion approves the U.S. Navy's action.

He advised Iranians to abandon all hope that Americans will choose "healthy people" in the future for their own administration.

Nevertheless, Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam subsequently told the radio that the opposition of "free Americans" to the U.S. military presence in the Gulf is "very important and valuable" for Iran.

As for the upcoming UN Security Council debate on the Airbus incident, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said the Council is facing "one of the major tests of its political history," but he added that Iran is "not too optimistic" about the outcome, according to IRNA.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq's I Corps captured 12 strategic heights overlooking Panjwin 10 July, according to a communique carried by Voice of the Masses radio. A military spokesman cited by INA denied Iranian reports that Iraq fired chemical rockets at villages in Marivan and a refugee camp in Baneh, injuring 150 people.

An Iranian Air Force commander denied Iraqi reports that an Iranian F-4 fighter plane was downed 9 July in the VII Corps sector, IRNA reported. Iranian Air Force jets bombed targets inside Iraq for 3 days running, according to a series of military communiques carried by IRNA.

Answering a call by Acting Armed Forces Commander in Chief Hashemi-Rafsanjani, "thousands" of mobilization forces have departed for the battle fronts, Tehran radio reported.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry denied Iraqi claims cited by INA that Iran killed Iraqi POW's during the Iranian occupation of northern Mawat in May, IRNA noted. The claims are an Iraqi attempt to divert world public opinion from Baghdad's "massacre" of Kurds in Halabjah, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

IRNA noted the Saudi weapons purchase from the United Kingdom and said that the "miscellaneous equipment and services" included in the deal suggest that some weapons may be headed for Iraq.

Iran's ambassador in Spain denied as "fabrications" Western media reports that he was involved in purchasing 10 military helicopters from the United States, IRNA reported.

The Saudi-British arms deal was reported by Riyadh radio, which said it "constitutes a major achievement." The radio noted that the protocol provides Saudi Arabia with aircraft, additional equipment, and specialized warships.

Pilgrimage instructions forbidding pictures or leaflets with a "political, propaganda, or ideological aim" were recently issued, SPA noted. Pilgrims found carrying such items will be punished without tolerance or leniency, a Saudi Interior Ministry spokesman said.

Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad on 8 July signed a contract with the USSR to supply Kuwait with "certain military equipment," KUNA reported. The contract is in line with the country's principle of diversifying sources of armaments "in accordance with the efficiency of those arms," KUNA added. The report did not mention the specific weapons systems covered by the contract.

Qatar and the PRC established diplomatic relations on 9 July, WAKH noted.

Israel

Reaction to Saudi-UK Deal—The sale of British offensive weapons to Saudi Arabia "does not contribute to the stability of the region" and is "especially annoying" in light of the British boycott of arms sales to Israel, according to Israeli officials cited by THE JERUSALEM POST.

Yosef Ben Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, told IDF radio that the British have been behaving in a way that "does not match their declarations of friendship," and he termed it "inconceivable" that Britain should provide "huge quantities" of arms to Israel's enemies while refusing to sell weapons to Israel.

Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin acknowleged that the Iranian "threat" was the motive behind the deal, Jerusalem radio noted, but he added that in the event of another Israeli-Arab war, an Arab country possessing such large quantities of military equipment will find it difficult to avoid participating.

Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres likewise warned in an IDF radio interview that Saudi Arabia could become "titillated by its military muscles" and become "a different kind of country from that known till now."

On the Tornado aircraft which the Saudis are buying, an Israeli Air Force officer cited by YEDI'OT AHARONOT warned that these planes pose a "far more serious threat" to Israel than the Kingdom's missiles, and he expressed concern that some of these aircraft could wind up in Jordan.

Territories—Three more Palestinian youths were killed in clashes with IDF forces 8-10 July, according to Jerusalem radio and television reports. Two were killed in separate incidents near Nabulus, while a third died in the Gaza Strip. The radio noted that Ramallah was declared a closed military zone 10 July.

The Israeli authorities also issued expulsion orders against 10 Palestinians who served jail terms for "hostile activities" and who played a "major role" in organizing the uprising, the radio said.

Palestinian Conflict in Lebanon

Fatah "Provisional Command" leader Colonel Sa'id Musa (Abu Musa) claimed in an interview reported by Damascus radio 11 July that Yasir 'Arafat's forces are "preparing for clashes" in the Iqlim al-Kharrub area, north of Sidon, adding that 'Arafat is "massing" forces in southern Lebanon for this purpose.

Voice of Lebanon radio reported earlier that the Syrian-backed Al-Sa'iqah organization has decided to withdraw its 250-man force from Sidon due to the current atmosphere in the area.

However, a clandestine "Voice of Palestine" radio broadcasting from southern Lebanon accused the pro-Syrian groups of deliberately creating disputes and spreading rumors to complete the Syrian "plot" and justify a new battle against the Palestinian presence in Sidon.

A proposal by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi for all Palestinian faction leaders to meet in Libya to resolve their disputes has been turned down by a number of invitees, according to TANJUG.

Egypt

Jordan's King Husayn arrived 9 July on a 3-hour visit, during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak on Arab and international issues, MENA reported. Cairo radio reported Husayn's remarks on importing weapons from the USSR and Western Europe.

The size of such deals is "determined by available financial resources," Husayn said, and these resources "might not be enough" to permit such deals. In a predeparture statement reported by Amman Radio, Husayn said Egypt and Jordan are "on the same path."

Libya-Chad

As talks between the two countries' foreign ministers were being held in Libreville, the Chadian Foreign Ministry issued a communique stating that Libyan Air Force planes violated airspace in northern Chad, Ndjamena radio reported.

The government called the overflight a "flagrant and total violation" of the cease-fire and stressed that such "rash acts" are "not conducive to the creation of a peaceful atmosphere."

Libya denied that its planes violated Chadian airspace, attributing the presence of a "radiating foreign body" in the region during the period specified by Chad to a U.S. satellite, according to JANA.

The talks ended on a "note of satisfaction" but without an announcement on reestablishing diplomatic relations, PANA reported. In a communique issued after the meeting, the sides announced they will meet again to continue the talks but did not specify when or where, PANA added.

Sudan

The Foreign Minister reaffirmed the government's readiness to host talks between the Ethiopian Government and Eritrean factions, SUNA reported, noting the Ethiopian Government's protest of official statements made recently by a Sudanese minister that the Eritrean issue is different from the southern Sudan conflict.

In internal matters, opposition groups called for a "constitutional conference" to be held before the end of the year, the clandestine SPLA radio reported. A joint communique issued by the SPLA/SPLM and the Union of Sudan African Parties said a cease-fire would be considered to last the duration of a preparatory meeting for such a conference.

It reaffirmed the rebels' willingness for "safe sailing" of relief supplies to both rebel and government held areas and called for a "secular state" in Sudan.

Iraq-PDRY

PDRY President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas arrived 9 July for talks with President Saddam Husayn, INA reported. In arrival remarks, Al-'Attas praised Iraq's reclaiming of its territories in the Gulf war as an "important factor" for peace, the report noted. An Aden radio report on Al-'Attas' arrival made no mention of his remarks on the war issue.

Afghanistan

Forty persons were injured when a car bomb exploded 8 July outside a Soviet military hospital in Kabul, resistance sources told AFP. Thirty-one persons were killed and 33 injured when a car bomb exploded 8 July in a crowded market in Jalalabad, Kabul radio reported.

The blast, a "treacherous and inhumane act" perpetrated by "criminal extremists," caused extensive material damage, the report stated. More than 150 civilians were killed or wounded in weekend artillery attacks by "intransigent opposition" forces, TASS reported.

Kabul radio carried a number of reports on "extremist" activities in Nangarhar, Vardak, Farah, and Herat Provinces, noting that "extremist groups" in the provinces were "crushed" by the Armed Forces and "brave youths."

The radio further reported that "crushing blows" dealt by the Armed Forces against "armed extremists" in Helmand Province were carried out with the "direct cooperation" of people in the region.

UN Envoy Diego Cordovez mentioned "some difficulties" during his talks with government officials, but called his visit "useful," the radio reported. He departed Kabul for Islamabad, where he called for a government for "peace and reconstruction" in Afghanistan, consisting of "Afghans of recognized independence and impartiality," Islamabad radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat Comments on Peace Prospects

PM0807115488 Rome L'ESPRESSO in Italian 3 Jul 88 pp 62-66

[Interview with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat by Gianni Perrelli in Belgrade—date not given]

[Text] As usual, the summons came suddenly around midnight. Yasir 'Arafat had only named the place of the interview. He had not given an exact date or time. The location was a new one. The meeting did not take place at PLO headquarters in Tunis or in any other Arab capital. It took place in a house in Belgrade, on the secluded Tolstoy Avenue. This is the residence placed at his disposal by the Yugoslav Government for a brief stopover on his return from a visit to East Berlin.

In Belgrade, 'Arafat was inundated with bad news: the increase in the repression against the uprising; the Israeli raids on the Palestinian communities in Sidon in southern Lebanon; the shelling of the Palestinian camps in Beirut by Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa's] dissident faction (controlled by Syria).

'Arafat, dressed in a uniform and wearing the traditional headdress, was giving orders to his men by telephone. He was clearly exhausted. But as soon as he greeted us he said he was not pessimistic about the future. He emerged victorious from the recent Arab summit in Algiers. And even the news coming through from the summit of industrialized countries in Toronto shows that the idea of an international conference to solve the Palestinian problem is beginning to take shape.

[Perrelli] Sir, foreign ministries have been thrown into turmoil in the past few days by a new peace plan which, according to the American press, the PLO has sent to the State Department. Is this true?

['Arafat] It is not an official PLO document. Moreover, we do not have any channel for communicating with the State Department. It is an article written by Bassam Abu Sharif, one of my closest aides and my adviser on relations with the press. (It was an article intended for publication in THE WASHINGTON POST. But the editor of that newspaper hesitated before publishing it. Meanwhile a copy appeared on the desks of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL and THE WASHINGTON TIMES which immediately published it—ESPRESSO editor's note).

[Perrelli] This article proposes several important changes. Let us summarize them: the proposal for a referendum in the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip to verify the extent to which the PLO represents the Palestinian population in the occupied territories; Palestinian recognition of Israel's existence, obviously in the context of reciprocity, in other words, Israel first accepting Palestinian rights; the creation of a Palestinian state in the territories occupied by Israel during the 1967 war; agreement on the transitional period guaranteed by the superpowers and the big international organizations. Do you think this is a realistic plan?

['Arafat] It depends on how the United States and Israel react. It is they who are the invaders and they must realize they cannot occupy our territories permanently.

[Perrelli] However, signs of a favorable attitude have filtered through from the Toronto summit. Even the United States recognizes the need for an international conference to end the discrimination against the Palestinian people.

['Arafat] The truth is that if the uprising had not started, the United States would have continued to ignore us. However, in Toronto, Reagan was forced to take into consideration the suffering inflicted on our people by the Israeli Government's fascist actions: the 321 people killed during the uprising, the 10,000 people injured, the 22,000 people imprisoned in concentration camps, and the 3,700 houses demolished. But, let us not forget that only a few months ago the Shultz plan presented us with five "noes": no to the PLO, no to an autonomous Palestinian delegation at the peace negotiations, no to an international conference, no to self-determination, and no to an independent Palestinian state.

In Algiers, however, we were presented with five "yeses" on the same issues. And this automatically improved prospects for an international conference under the auspices of the five UN permanent Security Council members, with the participation of all the parties concerned, including the PLO, with its own delegation or represented by a united Arab delegation.

In Toronto, the industrialized countries could not fail to take account of that. And their attitude is certainly a step forward. However, a few disagreements still have to be settled regarding the conference's real function and PLO representation.

[Perrelli] Everybody knows the Americans have to move very cautiously to avoid offending Israel.

['Arafat] The Americans did not make so much fuss when they negotiated on disarmament or when they tackled regional crises. We are obviously the exception. But, without our participation, no negotiations can be successfully conducted.

[Perrelli] Can you see any middle course between the five "noes" and the five "yeses"?

['Arafat] No, there is no possibility of negotiation on our conditions. We are constantly being presented with obstacles. They constantly harp on UN Resolution 242, which makes provision for recognition of Israel's existence, and Resolution 338, which should implement the provisions of 242. However, we regard all international

resolutions as essential and indivisible, including Resolution 181, which is never discussed, and which ratified the partition of Palestine in 1947. (It gave the Palestinians more territory than just the Gaza Strip and the West Bank—L'ESPRESSO editor's note)

[Perrelli] But Israel still does not officially recognize the PLO. If everybody adheres rigidly to their own positions, how can the deadlock be broken?

['Arafat] It can be broken by involving the five UN Security Council members and encouraging their support for the international conference.

[Perrelli] However, if Israel refuses to participate in it, at least on your conditions, the problem will remain. Do you think if Shim'on Peres were to win the coming elections in October, the obstacles could be removed more easily?

['Arafat] I certainly do not think so. Peres and Shamir are the two faces of the same coin. However, Israel will not be making any concession to us if it decides to sit down at the negotiating table. We are the victims and it is we who must have reparations. However, dialogue with Israel's democratic and progressive forces is not closed. Our parliament has given us a specific mandate on this subject.

[Perrelli] For that matter, you have also expressed your readiness for negotiations with Shamir, whereas until recently you ruled out any such possibility.

['Arafat] I have not changed my mind. I have simply said that I am prepared to negotiate with anybody, but in the context of an international conference. I can hardly negotiate with the Arabs on the Palestinian question. I have to sit down at a table with the enemy.

[Perrelli] If you decided to say explicitly, without any circumlocution or mental reservations, "I recognize the State of Israel," do you not think that even Shamir would adopt a more flexible stance?

['Arafat] Shamir has already answered that question: He said he will never negotiate with the PLO, not even if we were to recognize the State of Israel. And all the main Israeli leaders agree with that position.

[Perrelli] At the Algiers summit, your position was considerably strengthened. Every time the PLO has succeeded in reuniting the Arab front on the Palestinian cause, destabilization attempts have followed. Do you fear repercussions this time?

['Arafat] We are very united. We have a very strong leadership. In short, we are ready for anything.

[Perrelli] Is it true that some friendly countries have provided you with documentary evidence of an American plan to eliminate, or at least neutralize, the PLO leaders?

['Arafat] Information about U.S. involvement in destabilizing action has reached me from three countries. One of them is European.

[Perrelli] Of course, you will not tell us which country it is.

['Arafat] It is a West European country.

[Perrelli] Ronald Reagan is on his way out. What is your final verdict on his presidency?

['Arafat] Reagan is definitely the worst U.S. President of all time as far as the Palestinian cause is concerned. He has not merely always firmly supported Israel. He also participated in the invasion of Lebanon against the PLO and was a moral accomplice in the Israeli bombing of our headquarters in Tunis.

[Perrelli] Democratic candidate Michael Dukakis, speaking on Middle East questions, said he was in favor of transferring the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

['Arafat] That is a fatal mistake.

[Perrelli] Who would you prefer to see in the White House: Bush or Dukakis?

['Arafat] I prefer not to answer that.

[Perrelli] Is it true that, before the summit with Reagan, Gorbachev suggested that you should recognize Israel?

['Arafat] It is not true. That is an interpretation by TASS, the Soviet press agency, which published a report on our meeting. Gorbachev never made an official statement on this subject. He told me the Palestinians have a right to self-determination and to an independent state, in other words the same rights as the Israelis were given.

[Perrelli] There is at present a rapprochement between the USSR and Israel which seems to herald the resumption of diplomatic relations.

['Arafat] That is not the case. Talks are in progress at the foreign ministry level relating in particular to the emigration of Russian Jews to Israel. There were similar contacts between Shamir and Gromyko in 1984.

[Perrelli] Do you think the Craxi plan for the occupied territories can be revived in the future?

['Arafat] Why not? At the Algiers summit it was seen as a very important step and was accepted by all the Arab leaders. But it must not be a precondition for the international conference.

[Perrelli] Will there be a further escalation in your struggle in the occupied territories to coincide with the Israeli elections?

['Arafat] The uprising has completed its first phase, which ended with the general strike and civil disobedience. It is now entering its final phase, which will lead to the end of the Israeli occupation.

[Perrelli] What form will it take? Will it be armed insurrection?

['Arafat] That must remain a secret for the time being.

[Perrelli] Has the plan for a government in exile been shelved?

['Arafat] It is still being discussed. A decision will be made at the appropriate time.

[Perrelli] The internal struggle started by Abu Musa is a great threat to the PLO. Is there no way of removing this threat by diplomatic means?

['Arafat] Abu Musa is only a puppet. Somebody else is pulling the strings.

[Perrelli] Are you referring to Syria?

['Arafat] I am referring to somebody who does not have the Palestinian people's interests at heart.

[Perrelli] Your relations with Syria do not yet seem to be very good, despite the rapprochement produced by Abu Jihad's [Khalil al-Wazir's] death.

['Arafat] We are trying to normalize the situation. But it is still a serious problem.

[Perrelli] If the Palestinian state were to be created one day, do you think its people and the Israeli people would really be able to live in peaceful coexistence after such a long period of hatred?

['Arafat] Ask the Israeli and U.S. politicians. Everything depends on them.

Al-Quds Radio Criticizes Call No 21

JN0707103588 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 0820 GMT 7 Jul 88

["Open letter from Al-Quds Radio to the masses of the heroic uprising in Palestine"]

[Text] O masses of our struggling people; O our people in Palestine: We have received two copies of calls bearing the signature of the Unified Leadership of the Popular National Committees in Palestine. Both calls are numbered 21. The first call, which is numbered 21, is entitled "Call of the Blessed Al-Aqsa," and the second, which is also numbered 21, is entitled "Call of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah."

Having read both calls with care and a sense of responsibility, we of Al-Quds Radio find ourselves compelled to send this open letter to our fighting masses in Palestine and to discuss these calls, which are contradictory in the terms of some of their provisions and which are similar to each other in terms of their number and certain other provisions.

The Call of Shatila and Burj Al-Barajinah cannot have been issued by the unified popular committees that are leading the uprising in the occupied territory day and night in a heroic battle that has become part of the history of our Arab nation and people. We tell our struggling people in Palestine that the first reading of this call makes us smell the odor of the Zionist Mosad. Our judgment is right. The newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT affirmed that Call No 21, the Call of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah, is of the making of the Mosad itself. The newspaper could not keep the secret of this call because of the many points that contradict our people's values and revolutionary principles.

Therefore, now that we have established that Call No 21, the Call of Shatila and Burj al-Barajinah, is a Mosad statement, we will not discuss it any further and will take no notice of it.

O masses of the blessed uprising in Palestine, in this open letter from Al-Quds Radio, we are of the view that the other call, which bears No 21, the Call of the Blessed Al-Aqsa, should be discussed. We think we should give our views on it.

1. Al-Quds Radio and its listeners are not used to hearing a call which is supposed to be expressing the aspirations of all of our people's groups and strata singing the praises of the international conference for whose convocation the ground is being paved so it will be held in a situation where the balance of power is disturbed between us as an Arab nation on one hand and the enemy and its allies on the other.

2. In this open letter to you from Al-Quds Radio we support your call for an immediate halt to the fighting beween the two sides of Fatah in the Beirut camps. However, we will not condone holding one side, that is, the Fatah Provisional Leadership under Brother Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], responsible for this fighting, especially since Brother Abu Musa and his comrades have been a target of a plot which 'Arafat started in Sidon more than 2 months ago. He gave his orders that clashes spread to Shatila and Burj al-Brajinah.

We hoped that the writers of Call No 21, the Al-Aqsa call, would not voice their own personal desires but the aspirations of our people in the Palestinian camps, villages, and towns. They should not have projected their desires without careful consideration of facts. They would have done better had they denounced the fighting without defining the responsibility. They should not have held one of the parties responsible for the fighting if they really were in the dark as to facts.

They should have bypassed the whole issue so as not to further exacerbate matters. Those who drafted the call should have been more accurate, clear, and objective by blaming those who were really responsible for kindling the fighting and chiding the side which paved the way for the fighting and ignited its flames to cover its capitulationist program and promote the Bassam Abu Sharif document and its aims. O masses of the popular uprising in Palestine, through its open letter to you, Al-Quds Radio, which shares with you the same stand and concern about the revolution and its masses, wants to clarify to you the following: With all sincere parties, we are making great efforts to stop the fighting between Fatah's two sides. This fighting is harmful to your uprising, heroism, and gigantic sacrifices. It neither consolidates the continuation of the uprising nor serves it.

In this regard, we are not aiming at a detailed discussion about the fighting between Fatah's two sides. Indeed, we of Al-Quds Radio avoided as long as we could dealing with this subject for the sake of the uprising and unity of our people and so as not to occupy our people with matters removed from their sacred duties in confronting the Zionist enemy inside.

Through our open letter from Al-Quds Radio to our struggling kinfolk in Palestine, we say: Let those who formulated Call No 21, the call of the blessed Al-Aqsa, allow us to declare, regrettably, that the masses of our people have begun to feel the beginnings of a split action. In whose interest are media campaigns launched against the struggling Islamic trends and organizations in Palestine, especially since these trends have a basic and important role in destroying Zionist arrogance. The hero strugglers from these trends live in the enemy's prisons and are deported out of the homeland.

In our open letter from Al-Quds Radio, we wonder and leave the answer to the struggling masses of Palestine. Why open fire on Islamic trends and for whose sake? What is the reason? We have not seen or heard from those Islamic trends anything but determination to confront the enemy and rejection of the suspicious deals that sell out our national cause and sacred aims. For whose sake, brother strugglers, are attacks on the struggling trends in Palestine while praising the Zionist forces that are called by those who formulated the statement the democratic peaceful Jewish forces, bearing in mind that these Jewish forces boast their Zionist belonging?

At the end of our open letter, addressed to the masses of our struggling people in Palestine by Al-Quds Radio, we stress that the media campaigns should by no means be directed toward the Arab nationalist regimes, as stated by Call No 21. We can hardly imagine that those who want to continue confronting U.S. imperialism and its creation,, the Zionist entity, in a long and tough battle do not take into consideration the parties with which to ally and the parties to antagonize. Those who formulated Call No 21 should have launched their campaign against Husni Mubarak's regime, the Camp David regime that refused to sever its diplomatic relations with the Zionist entity even after the enemy swept through Lebanon in 1982 and occupied Beirut.

This regime currently refuses to remove the Zionist flag from Cairo's sky and the Nile's banks while the uprising of our people is entering its 8th month. In its open letter to you, and by virtue of its field contact with your uprising through the accurate news and the sincere word and its reliable sources from the heart of Palestine, Al-Quds Radio draws attention to the importance of adopting the statements and calls of the popular national committees of the uprising in the camps, villages, and cities of Palestine, which it broadcasts.

It appeals to you not to recognize any other sources publishing statements and leaflets that might be introduced by the enemy and its agents. Al-Quds Radio will remain with you, a voice of freedom, right, and revolution. God is with us. Victory is near. We are together on the path of liberating land and man.

Chad

Libyan Overflights in North Reported 7 Jul

AB0807192588 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1854 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Foreign Ministry communique sent to Radio Chad today, the Libyan Air Force last night once again overflew—almost simultaneously—some localities in northern Chad, namely Bardai, Ounianga, Fada, and Faya. The overflights, which are in flagrant and total violation of the terms of the cease-fire declared on 11 September 1987, add to the 300 other violations noted to date. Monique Kita Rampal has the rest of the report:

[Rampal] It should be noted that these recent overflights of Chadian localities by the Libyan Air Force took place on the very day of the opening in Libreville of the meeting between the foreign ministers of Chad and Libya under the auspices of the OAU ad hoc committee charged with seeking a peaceful and lasting solution to the Chad-Libya conflict.

In view of this situation, Chad has the right to question the degree of sincerity of the Libyan leaders and their desire to cooperate in good faith with the OAU ad hoc committee in the search for the peaceful solution Africa is expecting.

Chad, for its part, while remaining faithful to its consistent policy and ready to strive for lasting peace in the region, strongly condemns the Libyan provocations. The Chadian Government stresses that the rash acts of the Libyan leaders are not conducive to the creation of a peaceful atmosphere, as was unanimously recommended at the last OAU summit.

'Satisfaction' Expressed Regarding Libya Talks

AB0907193488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] At the invitation of His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon and chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya dispute, a Libyan delegation and a Chadian delegation met in Libreville from 7 to 9 July 1988 under the chairmanship of His Excellency Martin Bongo, minister of state and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation of the Republic of Gabon, representing the chairman of the ad hoc committee.

The two delegations were led respectively by His Excellency Jadallah 'Azzuz al-Talhi, secretary of the Libyan People's Foreign Liaison Bureau; and His Excellency Gouara Lassou, Chad's foreign minister.

In accordance with the resolution of the 24th OAU summit meeting on the Chad-Libya conflict, the two sides touched on the issues in a way that could lead to the restoration of an atmosphere of confidence for normalizing relations between the two countries in areas of common interest. The two sides expressed satisfaction with the important steps made.

Considering the historical ties between the two brotherly peoples, the two sides reaffirmed their determination to make all necessary efforts toward the settlement of this issue in a spirit of brotherhood. The two sides also agreed to pursue their discussions—discussions which took place in an atmosphere of brotherhood, frankness, and mutual understanding.

The two delegations expressed their sincere thanks and gratitude to His Excellency El Hadj Omar Bongo, president of the Republic of Gabon, founding chairman of the Gabonese Democratic Party, and chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict, for the important efforts he has ceaselessly made to find a peaceful solution to the Chad-Libya dispute. The two sides also expressed their thanks to the government and people of Gabon for the warm welcome and kind hospitality accorded them.

Egypt

Reportage on Visit by King Husayn of Jordan

Arrives in Cairo

NC0907102788 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1008 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived in Cairo this afternoon for a visit of several hours. President Husni Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received his majesty.

Talks Begin

JN0907152488 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1434 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (PETRA)—The Jordanian side headed by His Majesty King Husayn and the Egyptian side headed by His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a round of talks in the Al-Qubbah presidential palace immediately after the arrival of his majesty and the delegation accompanying him in Cairo this afternoon.

On the Jordanian side, the talks were attended by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, and Jordan's charge d'affaires in Cairo.

On the Egyptian side, the talks were attended by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Yusuf Wali, deputy prime minister and minister of agriculture and land reclamation; and Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs.

His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Cairo this afternoon. President Muhammad Husni Mubarak was at the head of those who received him at Cairo International Airport. The president accompanied his majesty to Al-Qubbah Palace, where an official reception ceremony was held. The Jordanian and Egyptian national anthems were played and a group of the prsidential honor guards saluted the two great leaders.

His majesty was also received by the prime minister and his deputies, the Egyptian ambassador in Amman, a number of senior officials, and the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Cairo.

President Mubarak hosted a luncheon in honor of his majesty and the delegation accompanying him. The luncheon was attended by members of the Jordanian and Egyptian delegations.

King Husayn, Mubarak Comment

NC0907140188 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1312 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak and Jordan's King Husayn held a tete-a-tete session today following the working luncheon which President Mubarak hosted in honor of the Jordanian monarch and the accompanying delegation.

During this meeting the two leaders exchanged views on international and Arab issues of concern to both countries, including the Middle East problem, the Gulf war, and the latest developments in the Arab arena in light of the Palestinian uprising and the victories scored recently by fraternal Iraq on the battlefronts.

Following his talks with President Mubarak, King Husayn expressed his hope that joint Arab action will continue and will be bolstered in the coming stage. He also expressed his hope that Egyptian-Jordanian relations will continue so that they can do their duty for the coming generations. He noted that the two countries are pursuing the same purposeful course.

Responding to a question on whether there is anything new in Jordan's relations with the PLO, King Husayn said that there is nothing new.

Regarding the joint [Jordanian-Palestinian] delegation and whether there are peace talks, King Husayn said: I believe that you have read my speech to the Algiers summit in which I reviewed the situation in its entirety. The situation is still the same. [passage omitted]

President Husni Mubarak also answered correspondents' questions. Replying to a question on the downing of the Iranian plane over the Gulf waters and whether it is possible for the United States to review its policy in light of recent developments, President Mubarak said that what happened in the Gulf is a great catastrophe. He added: I feel that it was an error by the U.S. naval forces, but at the same time I blame Iran because the state of war still exists and its rejection of the peace efforts so far means that peace is not spreading its shadow over the region.

President Mubarak called on Iran to accept the peace initiative so that peace can prevail in the region and further catastrophes can be avoided.

Replying to a question on UN Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for ending the Iraqi-Iranian war, and on the appropriate reasons for its implementation, President Mubarak expressed his hope that the concerned countries will be able to put the resolution into effect and noted that it will be in the public interest if it can be.

President Mubarak added: If one side implements 40 or 50 percent of the resolution and the other side implements 100 percent, it will be against the public interest. It will also be against the public interest if it is implemented only by one country and not the other.

In this respect, King Husayn said: The full implementation of the resolution is in the interest of us all.

Regarding the Palestinian uprising and the means of supporting it at the Arab level, King Husayn said: For our part, we will continue to support the uprising and the brothers in the occupied territories with all our resources. We are extremely proud of their steadfastness and their remaining on the soil of their homeland.

King Discusses Arms Deals

NC0907143688 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and King Husayn of Jordan held a private meeting at Al-Qubbah Palace today following a working luncheon, which President Mubarak hosted in honor of the Jordanian king and the delegation accompanying him.

Following the talks, His Majesty King Husayn answered questions by journalists and media officials. To a question on whether it would be possible for Jordan to sign a large arms deal with a country other than the United States, as Saudi Arabia has done, he said that Jordan has

done this in the past and is at present importing weapons from Western Europe and the USSR to meet its defense requirements. He added that the size of such a deal is naturally determined by the available financial resources, which might not be enough to secure such deals.

The Jordanian king declared that the general principle to which Jordan adheres is that every Arab country should, within its capabilities and according to its circumstances, secure what is sufficient to defend itself and that would be a part of the joint defense of the Arab nation at all times.

To a question concerning developments on the Palestinian scene and the attempt to liquidate Yasir 'Arafat's supporters in the Palestinian camps, His Majesty King Husayn said that all these issues had been discussed in accordance with their relative value. He added that all developments since his last meeting with President Mubarak were reviewed during their talks.

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC0907141488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1405 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jul (MENA)—Jordan's King Husayn left Cairo for Amman this afternoon at the end of a short visit lasting more than 3 hours during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Downing of Iranian Plane

JN0807153888 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Jul 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Where Is the Council?!"]

[Text] The new escalation in the Gulf region resulting from the downing of an Iranian passenger plane by mistake is really regrettable. If this mistake was unintentional, its consequences will be bad due to the sensitivity of the situation in light of the warning of U.S. authorities to Iran against carrying out any retaliatory operations against U.S. interests abroad. This incident draws attention to the seriousness of the confrontations that will take place in the volatile Gulf due to numerous concentrations and the practice of direct or indirect parties of launching an attack immediately after the first sign.

The battle that took place between the U.S. warships and the Iranian gunboats provides sufficient warning to all concerned about restoring the normal situation in the region in order to prevent any accumulation of incidents, and consequent loss of control over the situation.

The issue from this angle necessitates a response to peace initiatives and the expansion of prospects to provide all means to achieve stability that will allow the exertion of further efforts in this direction. Here lies the hesitation of the international community to achieve progress in the cease-fire resolution issued by the UN Security Council about a year ago. This hesitation is strange and suspicious. The Council was very active for a few months after the issuance of this resolution. However, it remained silent right after this active action and did not exert any effort to exercise its natural authority to impose sanctions on the side that refuses to respond to peace efforts, which is Iran.

Moreover, the UN secretary general recently admitted his inability to deal with the situation through measures adopted by the UN Security Council. He called for the search for new formulas. It was reported that among these formulas is the dispatch of delegations to the two parties to the conflict—a measure that has so far not been adopted despite the fact that it is similar to what the Council has adopted in the past. This indicates that the Council has run out of efforts and relinquished its responsibilities—due to differences among its permanent member states on imposing an embargo on arms sales, as has been reported—toward settling the conflict and left developments on the front to deputize for it in achieving a solution, if they can!

However, recent developments in the situation have made clear that the UN Security Council can now resume discussion of the issue and adopt a decisive stand toward it. This is because Iran was shaken by its defeats in the war and its leaders are attempting to reorganize the interior front under a new and unified leadership on the pretext of restoring balance to the combat situation. The plane incident harbors new conflagrations, and the Gulf states have become sick of the Iranian sabotage plots. Is this not sufficient to convince the UN Security Council and its permanent states to resume its meetings and adopt measures due to the fact that the world is now facing an actual war that could further expand and spread in the entire region?

Libya

Chad Overflight Denied; U.S. Satellite Blamed

LD1007075288 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0708 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tripoli, 10 July (JANA)—JANA's political editor has refuted the contents of the Chadian Foreign Ministry's report of yesterday about Libyan aircraft violating Chadian airspace.

The editor says: Whereas the Libyan Arab Air Force stresses that Libyan Arab aircraft have not committed any violations of Chadian airspace, the Jamahiriyah itself has complained about the presence of a radiating foreign body in the region. This body was observed during the period specified by the statement of the Chadian Foreign Ministry. This body came down emitting strong light, then it went up again and it was discovered that it was a U.S. satellite.

Al-Qadhdhafi Invites Palestinian Leaders

LD1007163388 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1555 GMT 10 Jul 88

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tripoli, July 10 (TANJUG)—Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has sent an invitation to the leaders of all Palestinian organizations, including Palestine Liberation Organization's (PLO) Yasir 'Arafat, to meet in Libya for the setting of foundations for a "new unity," TANJUG has learned from informed sources.

Al-Qadhdhafi's idea, according to the same sources, is to get factions outside the PLO to agree to enter its institutions. At the same time, a reconciliation between 'Arafat and the Palestinian "front of opposition" to the PLO would be achieved.

In first reactions to Al-Qadhdhafi's invitation, Palestinian sources cite a number of invitees as saying that conditions were currently not favourable for talks on unity.

Tunisian Prime Minister Arrives for Visit

LD1007202988 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tunisian Prime Minister Brother Hedi Baccouche, accompanied by Tunisian Interior Minister Brother Habib Ammar arrived in the municipality of the gulf of challenge, the Gulf of Sidra, this evening, for a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Baccouche was welcomed on his arrival at the Sidra Airport by the brother secretary and members of the general people's committee; the secretary of the people's congress of the municipality of the gulf of challenge; the local secretary of the people's committee; a number of secretaries of the people's professional committees in the municipality; and the Tunisian commissioner to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Hedi Baccouche made a statement to JANA, at the beginning of which he expressed his full satisfaction with the development of relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. He said: After 7 November, relations between the two countries entered a new and decisive stage, a matter that requires consultation with one another on all issues concerning the promotion and strengthening of these relations, which we continuously seek to expand and reinforce.

He stressed that this visit is to give substance to the recommendations of the Arab Maghreb summit, which constituted strong momentum underlining solidarity and unity between the Arab Maghreb countries. He said: Any bilateral step taken will strengthen this unionist trend, stressing that the Arab Maghreb summit held in Algiers recently had recommended that a meeting be held on the 13th of this month to put forward proposals for practical steps for the realization of the aspirations to unity of the Arab people in the Arab Maghreb member countries, a matter that has been entrusted to me by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

He added that what is common between the leader of the Great Fatih Revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is sincere brotherhood, deep appreciation, and true love. This is what we have seen, and what the whole world has seen, through the various encounters that have brought them together. It is as if Libya and Tunisia are one state. All this makes us optimistic about the future of our bilateral relations, and inter-Arab and inter-Maghreb relations generally, for building our future. It is for this purpose that we came today.

He said: There is yet another issue which we will raise, regrettably, calling for an end to that which the Palestinian camps are being subjected in Lebanon.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD1107070188 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 0115 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Hedi Baccouche, the prime minister of Tunisia. The audience was attended by the brother secretary of the general people's committee and Brother Habib Ammar, Tunisia's interior minister.

Sudan

Ethiopia Protests Spokesman's Statements

JN0807160688 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Jul (SUNA)—The Ethiopian Government has verbally protested to Sudan over the statements recently made by the culture and information minister, who is also the government's official spokesman on the Eritrean conflict. In these statements, the minister said that the Eritrean issue is different from the southern Sudan conflcit, as the Eritrean issue, historically speaking, has international and regional legitimacy. The minister added that the United Nations guaranteed the Eritreans'rights.

The newspaper AL-AYYAM, which published the news in today's issue, said that Ethiopia considered the statements as encroaching upon, and interfering in, its internal affairs.

In a related development, Foreign Minister Dr Husayn Sulayman Abu Salih said "Sudan announced more than once that it does not speak for any of the warring parties and that it is ready to offer its good offices to initiate a constructive dialogue between Ethiopia and the Eritreans to bring about peace if it is requested to do so, as we in Sudan believe that our security is affected by that of our neighbors. We do not allow ourselves to interfere

in the affairs of any neighboring states. We also firmly believe that progress and development cannot be achieved unless stability is established in this region."

On the other hand, the culture and information minister issued a statement yesterday, the text of which is carried below by SUNA:

"To correct the statements attributed to me by some newspapers on the nature and origin of the southern Sudan and Eritrean issues, I would like to reiterate that the southern Sudan issue and the Eritrean issue are different in their beginnings, objectives, and developments. The reconciliation government has a clear policy on the concepts involved in both issues and the ways of tackling them. In my capacity as the government's official spokesman, I formulate the general policy regarding these two questions as it is expressed by both the prime minister and the foreign minister. Hence, I caution those who seek to exploit loopholes or disparities in these policies through the tendentious use of statements and proposals made in a manner that distorts our policies in general, and obstructs the progress of relations with our neighbors, especially with fraternal Ethiopia. I ask them to retreat, as they are treading a thorny and unsafe road. Furthermore, we will confront, expose, and refute their plans."

It should be noted that some newspapers quoted the culture and information minister last month as saying that the Eritrean issue is different from the southern Sudan issue, in that the Eritrean issue's legitimacy is derived from UN resolutions. Consequently, the minister continued, the Eritrean movements are considered movements that seek to achieve the right of self-determination. Sudan deals with them as such, and in this they are different from the Garang movement, which does not have any international or regional legitimacy, the minister concluded.

Communique Demands Constitutional Conference

EA0907173688 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Here now is the joint communique by the delegations of the Union of the Sudan African Parties [USAP] and the SPLM/SPLA:

The Addis Ababa peace forum from 5th to 7th July 1988: Joint Communique by the delegations of the USAP and the SPLM/SPLA:

In pursuance of the Addis Ababa peace forum; Kampala quest for peace and Nairobi search for peace communiques issued by the SPLM/SPLA and Anya Nya II and the USAP in August and September 1987; aware of the Sudan Government's persistent attempts to internationalize our domestic problems, as manifested by the recent speeches of the prime minister, the minister of defense and the minister of foreign affairs, accusing some neighboring countries, humanitarian, and religious organizations of their involvement in our internal affairs:

Convinced of our capability to solve our internal problems without foreign interference, [we] reject these attempts which implicate some foreign countries and international organizations, considering the effects of the ongoing war in the Sudan which increasingly claim many lives and the destruction of properties of the Sudanese citizens on both sides, including innocent citizens who have been displaced and exposed to famine, disease, and misery; determined and committed to bring about meaningful and just peace, stability, justice, and equality to our suffering people; convinced that the only way to solve our national problems is through dialogue, [we] have therefore agreed and adopted the following:

(1) The national constitutional conference shall be held before the end of 1988 as expressed by all the political forces in the country.

(2) [We] call upon and urge the forces of the 6th April 1985 uprising, including the SPLM/SPLA and all the other political forces in the country, to hold a preliminary meeting in the spirit of Koka Dam conference of 1986 to discuss the program, agenda, venue, and the time for the convening of the national constitutional conference.

(3) The SPLM/SPLA will consider a cease-fire during the aforesaid preliminary meeting, depending on the prevailing situation at the time.

(4) The SPLM/SPLA reaffirms the guarantee and willingness for safe sailing of relief supplies by the international organizations to all Sudanese citizens in affected areas both under the SPLM/SPLA and the government controlled areas. Assistance rendered so far by some international organizations to the victims is appreciated. However, due to the immensity of the suffering in these areas and in the refugee camps, the SPLM/SPLA and the USAP appeal to these organizations for more aid.

(5) The SPLM/SPLA reiterates its commitment to the realization of a secular state in the Sudan.

And (6) The SPLM/SPLA repeats its earlier offer for the exchange of the POW's with the government through the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross].

Signed in Addis Ababa on the 8th day of July, the year 1988

For the SPLM/SPLA: Commander Yusuf Kuwah Makki, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA political-military high command and the leader of the delegation

For the USAP: Dr Andrew Wieu Riak, USAP spokesman and leader of the delegation

AL-RAYAH Reports Split in Garang Movement

JN1007125788 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1036 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Khartoum, 10 Jul (SUNA)—The newspaper AL-RAYAH, citing the Islamic Front, said that the rebel movement is now witnessing a wide split where two political directions are forming. One is led by John Garang and the other by Arok Thuon Arok, who used to be in charge of the movement's office in London.

The newspaper said that this information, which it received from informed sources in Nairobi, London, and Addis Ababa, was confirmed by security sources in Khartoum. The newspaper added that Arok's release came as one of the attempts at containing this split, as well as a part of the initiative announced by Garang last May.

The newspaper sources stated that the movement was in a bad situation as a result of those splits and its forces being exposed to recurrent attacks by the People's Armed Forces.

Tunisia

Committee on Palestine Makes Recommendations

LD0807173288 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The Arab seven-man ministerial information committee entrusted with following-up and supporting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories has drawn up a working program for international media action for the 2d month in a row.

The program is designed to explain the dimensions of the heroic Palestinian uprising against the occupation, and also to obtain more support and sympathy for the just struggle of the Palestinian people, who are facing Israel's policy of repression and killing.

The 2-day meeting in Tunis, held at Tunisia's invitation, was chaired by (Tunisian) Information Minister Abdelwahab Abdallah. The seven-man committee decided to prepare a black book [as heard] on the Zionist's repressive and brutal practices against the Arab population and on Israel's persistence in its settlement policy.

This book is to be drafted by a group of international writers, jurists, and specialists. The committee plans to submit it to the United Nations international and regional institutions, parliamentary and scientific institutions, the international media, and human rights and national liberation groups.

The committee's working program also included sending parliamentary delegations to occupied Palestine and organizing media visits. In this way these delegations will become acquainted with the Palestinians' situation. They will also be able to follow the developments in the heroic uprising and the Zionist practices.

In addition, the committee decided to prepare a documentary on the Palestinian's struggle and to intensify television coverage of the uprising in the occupied territories. It further resolved to organize a series of cultural events, to set up a mobile film festival, and to stage marches of Palestinian children in the world's major cities.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Speedboats Attack Romanian Ship 7 Jul

JN0707184088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1807 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] London, 7 Jul (INA)—An Iranian speedboat attacked the Romanian merchant ship "Plataresti" at 1300 GMT today while on its way to Kuwait carrying a cargo of timber.

In a cable distributed here this evening, the British Lloyds Insurance Company said that the Iranian speedboat opened fire on the Romanian ship which weighs 5,934 tonnes while it was sailing in an area located between latitude 27.56 degrees north and longitude 50.02 degrees east of the Arabian Gulf. Two members of the ship's crew were wounded in the incident.

Kuwait

Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd Arrives in U.S.

LD1007222388 Kuwait KUNA in English 2135 GMT 10 Jul 88

[By Raphael Calis and Rashid al-Ruwayshid

[Text] Washington, July 10 (KUNA)—Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah arrived here Sunday on a six-day working visit at the invitation of U.S. President Ronald Reagan for high-level talks on bilateral and regional issues.

Shaykh Sa'd flew into Andrews Air Force Base (AFB) from London, where he had spent the night, and was met at the airport by Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, top White House officials and more than 200 Kuwaiti students in the United States who flew into the capital especially for the occasion. American and Arab newsmen were also at hand to report on the event.

The more than 250 people awaiting the crown prince's arrival at the military airport just outside of Washington cheered as the crown prince descended from the plane. Kuwaiti students chanted nationalist songs and waved the Kuwaiti flags.

Shaykh Sa'd is accompanied by three senior Cabinet ministers, Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials, and a military team led by Brigadier General Shaykh Jabir Khalid al-Sabah, assistant to the general chief of staff.

The delegation includes Minister of Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah al-Sabah, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-Aziz al-Rashid, and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud 'Abd al-'Aziz al-'Usaymi'.

Kuwait's ambassador to the U.S., Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah, who welcomed the crown prince and prime minister on arrival Sunday, is also part of the official delegation.

The nearly 45-man Kuwaiti team also includes editors of all Kuwaiti newspapers in addition to a press, television, and radio team.

Shaykh Sa'd is the first such high-ranking Kuwaiti official to visit Washington in 21 years and will be holding talks with President Reagan, top government officials, congressional leaders, and will also speak to the U.S. media. He will be staying here until next Saturday.

After a colorful and brief welcoming ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, Shaykh Sa'd and the accompanying ministerial delegation were flown by military helicopters to downtown Washington, where Acting Secretary of State John Whitehead was also at hand to welcome the crown prince and prime minister. Secretary of State George Shultz is on a previously-arranged two-week Far East tour and Whitehead will be replacing him in the high-level talks with the Kuwait delegation.

The delegation then drove in a heavily-guarded motorcade to the nearby Willard—the capital's biggest and newest hotel, where the crown prince and his delegation will be staying—just five minutes from the White House.

U.S. Visit Previewed

LD0807103588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0759 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Washington, July 8 (KUNA)—Although bilateral issues will feature highly in the talks between Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah al-Sabah and President Reagan here next week, regional issues are expected to take the lion's share of discussions during the five-day working visit to Washington starting next Sunday, July 10.

Shaykh Sa'd is expected to press ahead with Kuwait's unyielding efforts on behalf of all the Gulf Cooperation Council countries to bring about a comprehensive settlement of the Iran-Iraq war.

The discussions with President Reagan and with members of Congress are part of Kuwait's multilateral approach with all the permanent members of the Security Council aimed at bringing about a negotiated and comprehensive solution of the conflict.

Adding to the weight of Shaykh Sa'd's attempts is the fact that Kuwait is currently the chairman of the Islamic Conference in addition to being a Gulf Arab country directly threatened by the war, which next September enters its ninth year.

But Shaykh Sa'd's emphasis on the Iran-Iraq war is not expected to divert his attention from pressing ahead with Kuwait's other major preoccupation - - the Palestinian problem.

The crown prince and prime minister is expected to urge the Reagan administration to capitalize on the Palestinian uprising - the intifada - to recognize the Palestinian rights to self-determination, to a homeland of their own, and to their right to choose their own representative - the PLO.

In both private and public comments - including a major appearance at the National Press Club of Washington on July 13 - the crown prince and prime minister is expected to emphasize the fact that the Palestinian intifada is a turning point in the Arab-Israeli conflict that cannot be ignored by either Israel, the U.S., or the international community.

Shaykh Sa'd is expected to highlight the Arab position on a peaceful solution to the conflict with Israel as outlined by the recent Arab summit conference held in Algiers. [passage omitted]

American officials believe that the U.S. has proved to its friends and allies in the Middle East region that it will not "cut and run" as it did in Lebanon and that it will "stay the course" in the Gulf. The operations have regained for the U.S. a badly-needed credibility, especially coming in the wake of the Iran-Contra scandal of two years ago.

U.S. officials are emphasizing the fact that even after Sunday's unfortunate downing of an Iranian civilian airliner, the U.S. will not alter its policy by pulling out its units from the Gulf waters.

"We are there to stay until peace is achieved and there is no longer any need for our presence there," a top administration official commented this week.

From the Kuwaiti point of view, the actual reregistration of 11 Kuwaiti tankers was purely a commercial deal that Kuwait, like other sea-faring countries, have normally conducted a number of times and in many countries around the world.

The other aspect of the operation - the escort that followed - is considered by Kuwait a multilateral responsibility with each country that is taking part in the protection of international shipping assuming its own role in guaranteeing the freedom of navigation in the Gulf waters.

But Kuwait, which has its own oil exports at stake, has worked closely and cooperated with all the countries involved in the multinational effort, especially the United States, without giving up its sovereign rights in the protection of its own lands and territory.

But in order to protect its own territory and sovereignty from outside aggression, Kuwait has always sought sources of arms from wherever it can get them, but these arms must fit within Kuwait's overall security system and plan in full coordination with the other members of the GCC.

Kuwait has in the past bought weapons from European countries, the Soviet Union, and the United States.

One of the issues that Shaykh Sa'd hopes to discuss during his Washington visit next week is Kuwait's recent request for the purchase of 40 F-18 Fighter planes from the U.S. with its accompanying assortment of defense equipment. The deal is believed to be worth 1.9 billion dollars.

The issue will be discussed next Monday when the crown prince and prime minister spends the first day of his working visit at the Pentagon. It is also expected to feature in discussions with President Reagan on July 12 and also with congressional leaders who have been notified by the administration of the sale request.

Officially, Kuwait is not involved in any lobbying effort with members of Congress. The Kuwaiti Government's dealings have been conducted through the normal diplomatic channels - the Reagan administration. Kuwait believes it is up to the administration to lobby with Congress for any arms sale.

But Kuwait, like other Arab countries, have on numerous occasions in the past expressed dissatisfaction with the fact that everytime an Arab country comes to Washington to buy arms, Israel's supporters on Capitol hill attempt to either block them or seek to scale down the overall arms package to suit Israel's interests rather than the U.S. interest.

That is one reason why, for example, Saudi Arabia transferred a multibillion-dollars arms package three years ago from the U.S. to Europe and opted to buy the British Tornado fighter plane instead of the U.S. F-15 fighter plane.

After extensive study and consideration, Kuwait is known to have considered a number of options for the purchase of its security arms needs, including planes, from other countries in case its arms sales request is blocked by congress.

American officials, however, now believe that the sale of the F-18 fighter planes and other defense equipment stands a good chance of passing through Congress despite the expected attempts by Israel's supporters and lobbyists on Capitol Hill to scale it down. The official notification period when members of Congress can object to the sale ends on July 29. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Signs Contract With USSR

LD0907203088 Kuwait KUNA in English 1931 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 9 (KUNA)—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad Saturday signed a contract with visiting Deputy Foreign Trade and Economic Relations Minister in the Soviet Union Admiral Yuriy Grishin to supply Kuwait with certain military equipments.

The contract falls in line with Kuwait's principle of diversifying sources of armaments in accordance with efficiency of those arms.

The signing ceremony was attended by Chief of Staff Maj. Gen. Mazyad al-Sani', Defense Undersecretary Faysal al-Da'ud, the Soviet ambassador to Kuwait and other officials.

Diplomatic Relations with Seychelles Established
LD1107090588 Kuwait KUNA in English 0838 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—The Government of the Republic of Seychelles and the Government of the State of Kuwait, desirous of promoting a spirit of mutual understanding and of strengthening the existing bonds of friendship between the peoples of the two countries, have decided to establish diplomatic relations at ambassadorial level as of today.

The Foreign Ministry here announced that both governments have agreed at a time convenient to both countries to appoint non-resident ambassadors as their respective representatives.

Iranians Seize Fishing Boats, Release Crew
LD1007121088 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, 10 Jul KUNA—A responsible source at the Ministry of Interior stated that last Friday evening two Iranian gunboats intercepted four Kuwaiti fishing boats fishing within Kuwaiti territorial waters. The crew of the two gunboats captured three of the boats after expelling the fishermen under the threat of arms. They later released the fishermen with the fourth boat.

Daily Cited on Senate Refusal of Missile Request
LD1107081788 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0708 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait 11 Jul—KUNA—The daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM today criticized the U.S. Senate's decision to refuse the missile deal which should have accompanied the aircraft Kuwait has requested to modernize its equipment and weaponry in order to confront danger.

The paper pointed out that the Senate refusal for this deal indicates that the Senate "could not betray its absolute loyalty to international Zionism, despite the fact there was only a short period between the U.S.-Israeli agreement on the production of missiles and Kuwait's request to buy the U.S. (?weapons)."

The daily pointed out that Kuwait has several choices to obtain sophisticated weapons of the quality and the quantity corresponding with its defensive needs and requirements. "And when it chose the United States, it did so out of its belief in friendship and its concern to establish balanced and neutral relations with everybody. At the same time, however, Kuwait refuses to enter into haggling which might harm its independent decision or affect the rules of balance and equivalence in its relations with the rest. Furthermore it will not hesitate to have recourse to other channels and sources for weapons whenever it faces political obstacles or difficulties from the U.S. Congress."

The daily stressed that "the impedance of the deal by the Israeli lobby in the United States will inflict a big loss on the U.S. economy; the big winners from the process will be the British and the French companies...and maybe even the Soviet and the Chinese ones."

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Downing of Iranian Airbus
JN0807150088 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 6 Jul 88 p 1

[Editorial: "The Wrong Calculations"]

[Text] Definitely, we oppose any action to kill innocent people, whether they be on the ground or in the air. This applies to intentional or unintentional attacks on civilian planes, hijacking and threatening the safety of their passengers, bargaining on their lives and destiny, and killing some of them for terrorism and blackmail.

What happened to the civlian Iranian plane is regrettable. It underlines the region's need for peace and sincere and swift efforts to end the fighting. The situation is so complicated that it requires a clear conscience and mind and the avoidance of moving on muddy roads so that the picture will not become vague and overwhelmed by conflicting trends and options.

The sources of danger should be known. The justice of the destructive force of wars and the human catastrophes resulting from threats and counterthreats should not be trusted. Our region has suffered as the result of the fall in the quagmire of wrong calculations and estimations. It is now high time to avoid the repercussions and eradicate the causes of these tragedies.

No matter the degree of care and caution to avoid the taboos and the prohibitions, as in the case of the Iranian plane, mistakes are bound to occur. Even the most sophisticated technology will not be able to prevent interference in a region whose territory and space is full of military equipment, commercial tankers, and civilian planes, in a way unprecedented during the time of peace.

We are most afraid that the Gulf will become a field of a struggle without equal, leading to serious confusion and making peace impossible for those who seek it.

We are not concerned about how the plane flew or moved. The important thing is that the plane was downed by a missile and its passengers were victims of an awful mistake.

This tragic incident should be sufficient motive to reconsider all the policies and stands that made some parties insist on extremism and determination to continue the war for the sake of war.

We, as Arab Gulf states, have a genuine interest in peace and security. We ought to continue pressure to end the ordeal, as the sparks around us are about to overwhelm the space of our region in an unprecedented way. This might spoil everything.

Threats of revenge from a superpower do not serve the cause of peace. They do not end tension. Indeed, they may lead to an endless series of terrorism and counterterrorism. This pattern of thought shows much ignorance, as it kills all good. The good for the region is peace. Less than that will go into the water of the sea, as did the victims on the plane.

Saudi Arabia

Customs Foil Pilgrims' Arms Smuggling Attempt

LD1107092188 Kuwait KUNA in English 0830 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—Official Arab security sources told Kuwaiti AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM newspaper that a group of pilgrims tried to smuggle light arms to Saudi Arabia during the few past days.

Vigilant Saudi customs officers discovered the arms which were smuggled in ice boxes, the sources said.

The arms were made of a solid plastic material similar to ice that cannot be easily discovered in the naked eye, added the sources.

The local daily said Saudi authorities had contacted GCC states for coordination, particularly in fostering security measures on official border points.

Hizballah Branch Threatens Airbus Reprisals

NC0807105588 Paris AFP in English 1043 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 8 (AFP)—The Saudi branch of the pro-Iranian fundamentalist group Hizballah on Friday threatened to strike at "imperialism and its agents" to avenge the destruction by the U.S. Navy on Sunday of an Iran Air passenger jet over the Gulf.

The group, known as Hijaz Hizballah, denounced the loss of the airliner as "a criminal act" and a "massacre" and called for those responsible to be punished.

But in an Arabic-language statement received by a Western news agency here, it vowed to "heal its wounds by attacking imperialism and its agents."

Hijaz Hizballah was first heard from here last August when it claimed responsibility for an explosion at a gas complex in eastern Saudi Arabia, which has a large Shi'ite population.

Hijaz is the name used to describe a portion of the Arabian Peninsula and is preferred by fundamentalists opposed to the Sa'ud dynasty, which has given its name to the country.

Yemen Arab Republic

Foreign Minister Denies Arms Deal With U.S.

LD1107091688 Kuwait KUNA in English 0820 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kuwait, July 11 (KUNA)—The Yemen Arab Republic's foreign minister 'Abd al-Karim al-'Iryani has denied reports of an American arms sale to his country but he left open the possibility of such a deal in the future.

Al-'Iryani, in an interview published Monday in Kuwait, stressed, however, that neither an arms sale nor military facilities to the U.S. were discussed when American Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy visited Sanaa last month.

Murphy was told in Sanaa that the American Middle East policy was a stumbling block in the face of a settlement in the region, according to Al-'Iryani who was talking to Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH.

He noted that his country was being offered softer terms in arms deals with the Soviet Union and emphasized that his country would buy American weapons if Washington offered facilities as those offered by Moscow.

On the Palestinian uprising, the Yemeni foreign minister said the best support Arab countries can led to the revolt in the occupied territories is that they agree unanimously on whatever sort of settlement.

Al-'Iryani was particularly bitter about what he saw as playing double standards. "The greatest bane," he said was that Arab leaders say something in summit conferences but think differently "under the counter."

"The most important thing is that Arabs outside the occupied territories agree on a solution that would gratify those under the occupation and be adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organization," according to the Yemeni foreign minister.

This, he said, would be the greatest support because it will have an impact on the world community.

Asked if he thought that resolutions of Arab summit conferences were mere formalities, Al-'Iryani said they were not exactly so but indeed lacked the "mechanism" that could make them effective.

Responding to a query, he believed the uprising would shock the Americans into sensing "the terrible reality" in the Israeli-occupied territories and eventually lead the American Administration to seek a realistic solution.

But he discounted such a possibility in the near future. "Under President Reagan, this is unlikely," he said.

The Yemeni official, meanwhile, praised Kuwait's "prominent and historical" role in assisting development in the Yemen Arab Republic particularly in time of emergencies.

Relations between Sanaa and Kuwait can be an example to be followed by sisterly countries, he said.

'Aziz Sends Message to UN's Perez de Cuellar

JN1007123988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Iraq has called on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on the Iranian regime. It declared that "any hesitation in that regard has no legal basis and contributes toward prolonging the war." Iraq emphasized that any hesitation in that regard enables the Iranian regime—"an aberrant regime that is alien to the age, a regime that has flouted the will of the contemporary international community that seeks peace"—from continuing its aggression against Iraq and area countries and threatening world peace and security.

The above was stated in a letter which Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. The message refers to a law enacted by the Iranian Majlis providing for continuation of the war against Iraq. [passage omitted]

Tariq 'Aziz asked that his letter be considered an official UN Security Council document. Following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency. 1. I have the honor to inform you that on 5 July 1988 Tehran radio reported that the Iranian Majlis ratified a law providing for continuing the war against Iraq until "final victory" is achieved, declaring that policy as Iran's strategy, taking priority over domestic and foreign policies in political, economic, cultural, legal, and military fields, and emphasizing the need to take that principle into consideration in all political, legislative, and planning affairs. (We enclose the text of the said law).

2. The law acquires a very serious character as it affirms basic facts to which we consistently referred in our correspondence and deliberations with you and with Security Council members.

The first of these facts is that by virtue of its aberrant ideology, established by the basic provisions of the Iranian Constitution—and in particular the clauses in the preamble of the Constitution under the headlines "The System of Government in Islam," and "The Ideological Army," and Clause No 16 of Article 3 of the Constitution, the text of which we enclose—and in light of the attacks perpetrated against Iraq in 1979 and 1980 as a prelude to that regime's real armed aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980, the Iranian regime bears the full responsibility for beginning the war and the aggression against Iraq.

The second fact is that although 8 years have lapsed since the beginning of its aggression against Iraq, the Iranian regime continues to affirm—under circumstances in which the entire international community is emphasizing the need to end the war and establish a lasting and comprehensive peace on the basis of Security Council Resolution No 598—its basic propensity toward and firm policy of war and aggression.

The draft law emphasizes beyond a shadow of doubt that the Iranian Government ignores and breaches its international obligations as stipulated by the UN Charter, especially those specified by Article 2, Clause 4; Article 24, Clause 1 and Article 25, as well as the principles enshrined in the international law declaration on amicable relations and cooperation ratified by the UN General Assembly on 24 October 1970 and those enshrined in General Assembly Resolution No 3,314 of 14 December 1974 on the definition of aggression. The right conclusion to be drawn from the open breach of these obligations is that the Iranian Government refuses, as it has consistently over 8 years, UN Security Council handling of the conflict. Iran has actually rejected the binding Resolution No 598.

3. These damning facts make it incumbent upon the Security Council to draw without hesitation the right conclusions to which the Iranian draft law leads—the law which is backed by the attitudes and policies of the Iranian regime since it launched aggression against Iraq on 4 September 1980. First of these conclusions is that the Iranian regime rejected Resolution No 598 and thus it becomes imperative that sanctions be invoked against it as provided for by Chapter 7 of the Charter and Article 10 of the resolution.

Any hesitiation in this respect is illegal and will only prolong the war. It will also make it possible for the irregular, anachronistic regime, which is out of step with the will of the international community seeking peace and international cooperation, to pursue its aggression against Iraq and the region's states, as well as imperil world peace and security.

4. By way of reinforcing the right conclusions to which we have referred, we would like to refer to the enclosed statement issued by the General Command of the Iranian Armed Forces on 8 July 1988. The statement demonstrates that the draft law ratified by the Iranian Advisory Council is being implemented on a priority basis by the Iranian authorities.

Furthermore, the letters exchanged between the actual ruler of the regime, Khomeyni, and his deputy Montazeri, and the texts of which are enclosed in this letter, show beyond a shadow of a doubt Iran's insistence on pursuing the war and aggression against Iraq in open breach of the UN Charter and defiance of Resolution No 598.

Please have this letter distributed as a Security Council document. Regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister, foreign minister of Iraq

[Dated] Baghdad, 9 July 1988

Iran Allegedly Kills Iraqi POW's in Mawat Area

UN Notified

JN1007112388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1035 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Iraq has officially notified the United Nations of the new abominable crime the Iranian regime committed when it once again killed Iraqi POW's.

Iraq communicated to the United Nations serious information on this new crime consisting of documents irrefutably proving that Iraqi prisoners in the Mawat basin and in the northern sector had been killed when the Iranians opened fire on them while their hands were folded [as received].

This came in a letter Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

In his letter, Tariq 'Aziz enclosed a film taken in the Mawat area. The film shows the remains of several Iraqi prisoners who were treacherously killed by the Iranians after tying their hands with ropes. The film shows some mutilated bodies while others had been set on fire.

In its official letter to the United Nations, Iraq called for an immediate condemnation of the barbaric Iranian behavior. Iraq also asked the General Secretariat and the Security Council to give this serious issue of killing the Iraqi prisoners priority and immediate attention.

Iraq emphasized the need to dispatch the investigation committee that it has requested and also called for the adoption of decisive measures to safeguard the lives and dignity of POW's, in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention of 1949.

In his letter, Tariq 'Aziz referred to the previous letters he had sent to the United Nations in which he explained how the Iranian regime kills prisoners, forces them to change their religious and political beliefs, and makes thousands of them disappear.

Arab Envoys Briefed

JN1007132288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1105 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—The Foreign Ministry today summoned the Arab ambassadors accredited to Iraq and officially informed them of the new Iranian crime of killing POW's.

The Foreign Ministry delivered to the Arab ambasadors letters from Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to the Arab foreign ministers. These letters contain a detailed explanation of the new Iranian crime of killing Iraqi POW's in the northern Mawat area.

It is to be mentioned that this Iranian crime occurred in the first half of last May when the Iranian forces occupied the Mawat area, which the Iraqi forces liberated 1 month later. The Iraqi forces found the remains of these Iraqi prisoners, whose hands had been tied and who had been treacherously killed.

ICRC Help Sought

JN1007132888 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—Iraq has called on the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] to move quickly to prevent the Iranian regime from pursuing its ugly crimes against Iraqi POW's.

This came in a letter Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent to the ICRC president. In the letter, Iraq calls for condemnation of this ugly Iranian crime and states that such crimes committed by the Iranian regime against POW's are in violation of the Geneva Conventions on the treatment of POW's.

PDRY President al-'Attas Arrives in Baghdad

JN0907112988 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1117 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 9 Jul (INA)—Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the PDRY Supreme People's Council Presidium, arrived in Baghdad at noon today on an official visit to Iraq. President Saddam Husayn led those who received President [as received] al-'Attas. [passage omitted]

In a statement upon arrival in Baghdad, President Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas said he was pleased to respond to the invitation of President Saddam Husayn. He added that the visit crowns previous meetings and contacts between the two sisterly countries.

Al-'Attas reiterated the PDRY's appreciation for Iraq's stand on international efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war. He stressed his country's pride in Iraq's restoration of its territory. He said: We believe this represents an important factor for peace. He called on Iran to respond to peace calls because it is necessary to resolve the disputed issue at the negotiating table.

The PDRY president added that his visit to Iraq comes after the positive results of the Amman and Algiers summits. He added that Iraq and the PDRY can effectively contribute to the implementation of these results in the interest of the Arab nation's cause, foremost of which are the Palestinian people's legitimate right to repatriation, self-determination, and the establishment of their own independent state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

Al-'Attas explained that he would hold extensive talks with President Saddam Husayn on the various aspects of bilateral relations, as well as on political, economic,

trade, cultural, technical, and scientific areas. He stressed that his meetings, and those of his delegation with the brothers in the Iraqi leadership, will produce positive results and will open the door wide for bilateral relations in the interest of national and pan-Arab issues.

Reportage on Visit of Egyptian Ministers

Minutes Signed

JN0707211788 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1717 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Jul (INA)—Iraq and Egypt this evening signed joint minutes at the conclusion of the first session of the higher joint committee.

The minutes were signed on the Iraqi side by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and on the Egyptian side by Dr 'Atif Sidqi, prime minister.

The heads of the two sides exchanged two cordial speeches. They expressed profound satisfaction with the results of the talks. These talks were permeated with a spirit of brotherhood and keenness on continuing and expanding the relations of cooperation and joint action in all fields in a manner achieving the aspirations of both fraternal countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan and 'Atif Sidqi affirmed their eagerness to continue the implementation of joint agreements and to enrich them with ideas which help promote to the highest level the relations of brotherhood and bilateral cooperation between the two major pillars in the Arab world.

The first deputy prime minister and the Egyptian prime minister indicated that the beginning of joint action between Iraq and Egypt is based on sound scientific foundations stemming from the directives of President Saddam Husayn and President Husni Mubarak and from their great interest in expanding the spheres of cooperation to achieve joint interests and serve joint Arab action.

Specialized ministers from both fraternal countries signed eight agreements for cooperation including foreign policy, transport, culture, higher education, sciences, technology, housing, manpower, and trade.

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister [of Egypt], signed a framework for bilateral cooperation providing for intensified regular meetings, the exchange of views and consultations in evaluating Arab and international stands and events, and for cooperation between the delegations of the two countries at regional and international organizations and conferences.

Muhammad Hamzah [al-Zubaydi], minister of transport and communications, and his counterpart Sulayman Mutawalli [Sulayman] signed two agreements. The first is for international land transport for passengers, goods, and transit. The second agreement is for maritime commercial cooperation and the building and maintainance of ships. Interior Ministers Samir Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab and Major General Zaki Badr signed an agreement stipulating the exchange of information between the two ministries concerning the combat of terrorism and the exchange of outlaws.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, and Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information, signed the executive program for the protocol of bilateral media cooperation. The program provides for intensifying the exchange of media delegations as well as joint radio and television programs. The program also provides for the promotion of the flow of news through the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY and the Egyptian MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY.

Mundhir Ibrahim [al-Shawi], minister of higher education and scientific research, and his counterpart 'Adil 'Izz signed an executive program for cultural, scientific, educational, and technical cooperation concerning the exchange of scholarships and training, as well as the convocation of joint seminars, cultures, and conferences.

Babakr Mahmud Rasul, minister of labor and social affairs, and 'Asim 'Abd al-Haq [Salih], minister of manpower and training, signed an agreement for promoting the movement of manpower between the two countries.

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih [al-Rawi] and Economy Minister Yusri Mustafa signed the minutes of the third session of the joint committee for trade, economic, technical, and scientific cooperation, which provides for concluding an equitable deal for trade exchange of commodities worth $250 million to be divided evenly between Iraq and Egypt.

A joint agreement was signed by Tahir Muhammad Hassun [al-Marzuq], minister of housing and construction, and his counterpart Hasaballah al-Kafrawi. The agreement provides for the formation of a working team to lay down initial concepts for a joint contracting company, studying the establishment of a factory for producing concrete pipes, and the exchange of information and expertise between the two ministries.

An agreement for scientific and technological cooperation was also signed by Najih Muhammad Khalil, head of the Scientific Research Council and 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research affairs.

Delegation Departs

JN0707211988 Baghdad INA in English 1748 GMT 7 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, July 7, INA—Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Egyptian prime minister and the top-level delegation accompanying him this evening left here concluding a three-day official visit to Iraq.

Dr Sidqi was seen off at the airport by Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and first deputy premier, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister, Mr. Hasan 'Ali [al-'Amiri], RCC member and Iraqi ministers.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,250

JN0807163688 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1604 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,250 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

A roundup of the combat activities of our valiant Armed Forces for last night and today is as follows:

1. The planes of our daring Air Force carried out the following heroic missions last night and today:

a. In continuation of our course to destroy the Iranian regime's oil resources, which it exploits for aggression, our planes dealt accurate and effective hits against three maritime targets off the Iranian coast at different times last night; two were large targets, the third, a very large one.

b. At 1330 [0930 GMT] today, a blow was dealt to an enemy Hawk surface-to-air missile battery in the southern sector of operations.

c. The number of missions of the planes of our Air Force against enemy units in the sectors of operations reached 91, through which our hawks inflicted further losses on the aggressors. After carrying out all their missions, all of our planes returned safely to base with God's care.

2. Our Army helicopter gunships carried out 174 combat missions today, destroying several enemy positions, vehicles, and equipment. All our helicopters returned safely to base.

3. Three enemy personnel were killed and five infantry positions were destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector, and one scoundrel was killed, a gun emplacement and an infantry position were destroyed, and an ammunition dump was blown up in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. An ammunition dump was blown up in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah and seven enemy personnel were killed in the V Army Corps northern sector.

5. An ammunition dump was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris and three infantry positions were destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 July 1988

Bombings, Shellings Denied

JN0807185288 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations that claimed that Iraqi aircraft and the Iraqi artillery corps bombed and shelled the cities of Khorramshahr, Abadan, and Khosrowabad last night and today.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman said that these allegations are no more than false and absurd claims that will not be believed by anyone. He added: The activities carried out by our aircraft during this period were confined, as we announced, to attacking the Iranian oil pumping stations in Emam Hasan and Gorreh, and also to attacking three maritime targets in the Arabian Gulf waters.

Communique No 3,252

JN0907170088 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1615 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,252 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 9 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our victorious forces continued their activities last night and today as follows:

1. The planes of our Air Force continued their daring raids on the aggressors. They flew 67 combat missions, inflicting new losses on our country's enemies, and returned safely to their bases, in God's care.

2. Our helicopter gunships flew 30 combat missions to attack the enemy's units today, inflicting further losses on them, and returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. An enemy F-4 fighter plane attempted to violate our international border in the VII Army Corps sector. The men of the field ground defenses confronted it, shooting it down. It was seen falling ablaze inside enemy territory at 0611 [0211 GMT] today. Blessed be our ground defense men of our heroic VII Army Corps.

4. Four infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up in the I Army Corps northern sector and another ammunition dump was blown up and one infantry position was destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. Five scoundrels were killed and one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

6. A force from one of our brave formations in the V Army Corps northern sector launched a raid against enemy positions opposite it. The force clashed with the scoundrels, either killing or wounding most of the enemy personnel and inflicting new losses on the enemy's equipment. It also seized two light machineguns, six various rifles, and one RPG-7 launcher. Then the force returned safely to its base. Elsewhere in the sector, three enemy personnel were killed and one vehicle and two observation posts were destroyed.

7. The criminal enemy shelled residential areas in the township of Qal'at Dizah with long-range artillery yesterday and this morning. The shelling martyred one civilian, wounded three others, and caused damage to four houses. Mercy and forgiveness to our martyr and swift recovery to our wounded.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 9 July 1988

Sar Dasht Shelling Denied

JN1007114788 Bagdhad INA in Arabic 1137 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman today rebutted Iranian claims that the Iraqi artillery shelled villages belonging to the Sar Dasht city at noon yesterday. In a statement to INA today, the spokesman said that these claims are groundless. He added that the Iranian regime makes these claims to cover up for its successive defeats at the hands of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Communique No 3,253

JN1007142588 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1150 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,253 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 July]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted]

Your soldiers in the heroic I Army Corps under the command of Staff Major General Sultan Hashim Ahmad are achieving successive glorious victories, eradicating the remnants of injustice, destroying their positions, pursuing their remnants with the Iraqi fires, and purging our land of their filth.

Late last night, the heroic Al-Siddiq forces and their affiliated forces, under the supervision of the commander of the corps and its staff, and under the command of Staff Brigadier General Sabah Nuri 'Alwan, attacked the enemy forces on the mountain ridge of (Duwana).

Our men from the brave Al-Siddiq forces repulsed the hostile scoundrels with determination and courage of the men of Iraq, with a capable field command, and with support from the brave armor men, the courageous artillery men, the rapacious air hawks, the strong men of the helicopter gunships, and the engineerings corps, the torches of the homeland.

At 1400 [1000 GMT] today, our forces completely purged this mountain ridge with its peaks 1,468, 1,433, 1,425, and 1,409 meters. At the same time, our brave forces completely purged the mountain ridge of (Sidara), which is very important and which overlooks he Panjwin and Lala Humran basins, with its peaks 2,036, 1,873, 1,962, 1,708, 1,797, 1,738, 1,592, and 1,344 meters.

With God's help and the determination of the men, the border post of (Qazlajah) was purged, the 2d Brigade of the Iranian (Karakan) Division and most of the 1st Brigade of the division were destroyed, a number of enemy personnel were captured, and a quantity of weapons and equipment were seized.

The situation was settled in this area in favor of our victorious force near our international border in the Panjwin sector. The enemies were defeated, with the unjust people purged from the area. The men of the heroic I Army Corps had sworn to take revenge on behalf of our martyrs and our prisoners of war, which were killed by the enemy.

We will continue to destroy the unjust clique and purge every inch of our land desecrated by the enemies. All our zealous fighters in all our heroic corps along the battlefield swear to take revenege. God bless the lofty men in the heroic I Army Corps, the brave Al-Siddiq forces, and all our Armed Forces—commanders, officers, and other ranks.

Our victorious leader Saddam Husayn, God preserve him, instructed us not to retreat and to go ahead. Cursed be the aggression. God be praised for his victory.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 July 1988

Communique No 3,254

JN1007162888 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1606 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Communique No 3,254 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 10 July]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our victorious Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today as follows:

1. The planes of our heroic Air Force flew 92 comabt missions, inflicting heavy losses on the aggressors in the various operation sectors. All of our planes returned safely to their bases, in God's care.

2. Our brave helicopter gunships flew 126 combat missions today, inflicting more losses on the enemy's scoundrels, weapons, and equipment. They returned safely to their bases. God be praised.

3. A brave force from one of our units in the I Army Corps northern sector stormed the enemy's positions opposite it. The forces clashed with the enemy with various types of weapons, killing five of them, destroying three infantry positions, and seizing a quantity of weapons and equipment. It returned safely to base.

4. One scoundrel was killed, one ammunition dump was blown up, and one vehicle was destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. One of our brave patrols in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris also destroyed several enemy positions and seized one 122-mm gun with its ammunition. The patrol returned safely to its base.

5. One infantry position and one SPG-9 gun were destroyed and those manning the gun were killed in the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 10 July 1988

Shelling of Cities Denied

JN1007192088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1858 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jul (INA)—An Iraqi military spokesman has denied Iranian allegations stated in an Iranian military communique that Iraqi artillery shelled the Iranian cities of Mohammerah [Khorramshah] and Khosrowabad during the past 24 hours.

In a statement to INA, the spokesman added that allegations by the Iranian rulers that Iraq also carried out a chemical attack against the Baneh and Marivan areas are sheer lies, which the Iranian mass media make from time to time. However, such lies cannot save the liars from the mud of defeat.

Iranian F-5 Figher Shot Down

JN1107091088 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jul (INA)—Iraqi ground defenses today shot down an enemy F-5 fighter. The fighter tried to penetrate the international borders in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

This was announced today by the military spokesman. In a statement to INA, he said that two enemy F-5 fighters this morning tried to penetrate the international borders to the east of Al-Basrah. They were confronted by the ground defenses, which shot one of the fighters down, while the other escaped.

The military spokesman affirmed that the enemy fighter was seen falling ablaze in enemy territory.

Soviet Union To Supply Sukhoi-24's to Syria

TA1107104488 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jul 88 pp 1, 4

[Report by military correspondent Tali Zelinger]

[Text] The Soviet Union will supply Sukhoi-24's to Syria this year. These jet fighters will apparently also be delivered to Libya and other Arab countries.

Over the last few weeks, senior Israeli military sources have been voicing their assessment that the delivery of Sukhoi-24's to Syria will increase the threat facing Israel, a threat which will call for a prompt early warning system.

The Sukhoi-24 is the most advanced jet fighter in the world, and is at least on a par with the quality of the British Tornado. The Sukhoi-24 can fly long distances at low altitudes and has a large payload.

Reportage on Reaction to UK-Saudi Arms Deal

Foreign Ministry Protests

TA0907102588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem has protested the large British-Saudi arms deal. Our London correspondent Mikha'el Almaz reports that Britain carefully adheres to the strict embargo regulations regarding the sale of arms to Israel. Furthermore, Britain even refuses to sell Israel oil it pumps from the North sea. [passage omitted]

Agreement 'Deplored'

TA1007055888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 88 p 2

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] Israeli officials last night deplored the massive British-Saudi arms sale. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the sale, especially of offensive weapons, "does not contribute to the stability of the region." Spokesman Alon Liel said that disagreements between Israel and Britain on this matter "are not new." Officials added that the sale was "especially annoying" in light of the British boycott of arms sales to Israel.

The government will consider whether to submit a formal protest on the arms sales in the next few days, after the Defence Ministry analyzes its potential damage to Israel's security interests, the officials said.

Avi Pazner, media adviser to Prime Minister Shamir, said that "the sale of massive amounts of sophisticated weapons to Saudi Arabia threatens to undermine the arms balance in the Middle East." Pazner added that "Britain only has commercial interests at heart" and that the sale highlights Britain's unbalanced position towards the Middle East.

Ben-Aharon Comments on Deal

TA1007065788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Yosef Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Dan Shilon and Ya'el Dan—live.]

[Text] [Shilon] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, good morning.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Shilon] When did Israel first learn about the British-Saudi arms deal?

[Ben-Aharon] As far as I know, we learned about it only from the media. There have been large deals before. There was one which was published a few years ago, and this is an addition to that. Saudi Arabia apparently decided to go far with the British in order to equip themselves with various items of the huge arsenal....

[Shilon, interrupting] Besides spokesmen's announcements which express our anger over this deal, do we intend to make any efforts to foil it?

[Ben-Aharon] Look, the report on this deal was preceded by that of the Saudi-PRC surface-to-surface missile deal. On this issue we were active among several governments—superpowers—which take the responsibility for restricting unconventional arms and missiles. We are also trying to use our influence on the PRC so that this does not become a new threat in the entire region....

[Dan, interrupting] While Israel and its friends were exerting efforts in Congress to foil the U.S.-Kuwaiti deal, you knew about the London-Riyadh deal. Is it not more in Israel's interest for the United States to make deals which have conditions attached since Britain sells arms without any conditions or limitations?

[Ben-Aharon] Arms salesmen in the United States, as well as the U.S. Administration, from time to time give us that line of reasoning. It is unacceptable to us. We claim, and have done so all the time, that an arms deal is not limited only to the weapons being supplied. It also has implications for the seller's commitment to the purchaser, and it has political repercussions.

There is also the issue of the doctrine which accompanies the arms. Most of our arsenal is based on U.S. arms. We would therefore not wish to some day face sophisticated arms from the same source, and for U.S. knowhow, which we use and to which we contribute, to fall in the hands of our enemies.

[Shilon] In addition to the fact that Britain is selling arms unconditionally to the Saudis, which the United States perhaps would not do, the United States is very angry with Israel. There are charges that pressure by us and our supporters in Congress torpedoed a U.S.-Saudi arms deal, and this enabled the British to cash in and make a killing. How do we respond to that American claim?

[Ben-Aharon] That is on the economic level. We cannot afford to permit our interests and security to be sacrificed for the economic interests of governments who want to make sales and prevent unemployment. We must look after our interests and fight for them as much as we can. We have friends in the U.S. Congress who do it, not only out of love of Israel, but out of the belief that the United States must maintain a policy which has a logical and moral foundation while maintaining their global interests in stability and minimizing centers of friction. There are countries in Europe which do not have such moral restrictions.

[Dan] Britain has had an arms embargo on Israel since the war in Lebanon in 1982. Do you see any a sign of change or end to the embargo?

[Ben-Aharon] No, there is no such sign. On the contrary, I think that the British Government has lately been behaving in a way that does not match their declarations of friendship, or their desire to maintain a balance and bring about a settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict. It is inconceivable for a country like Britain to provide huge quantities of arms to our enemies—Saudi Arabia is on the frontline in its declarations and support for the terrorist organizations—and at the same time not sell even a single screw to the State of Israel based on baseless charges.

[Shilon] Yosef Ben-Aharon, the director general of the prime minister's office, thank you.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

Deal Has 'No New Dimensions'

TA1007131388 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin said in the cabinet meeting today that as far as sophistication is concerned, the British-Saudi arms deal introduces no new dimensions into the arms race in the region. Our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack reports that Minister Rabin, who addressed U.S. Rabbinical Union members, said, however, that we are witnessing an accelerated arms race in the region.

[Begin Rabin recording] Any weapon held by an Arab state could eventually be used against us. Obviously, if that weapon is in Syria's hands, it is more dangerous than if owned by Jordan, and its existence is less dangerous in Saudi Arabia than in Syria. In any event, these are weapons against which we have prepared ourselves. [end recording]

'Iranian Threat' Prompted Deal

TA1007202588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has said that what prompted Saudi Arabia to sign an arms deal with Britain is primarily the Iranian threat. At the same time, it should be remembered that in the event of a war between Israel and any Arab country, an Arab country possessing such large quantities of military equipment will find it difficult to avoid participating in that war.

Speaking with our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, the defense minister said that we must take into consideration the total arsenal and military power owned by each Arab country which has not signed a peace agreement with us yet.

The defense minister noted that Israel is well prepared, which is why we brought forward the supply of the F-16's by 2 years at least, following the Lavi project cancellation. As a result of this, the Air Force has a larger number of faster planes, which guarantee better aviation ability. Steps have also been taken in every other sphere to guarantee that Israel will be able to cope with the Arab military armament, which we have taken into consideration.

Peres Cited on Effects

TA1107073088 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Shilon—live]

[Text] [Shilon] Good morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Shilon] The latest arms deals involving Saudi Arabia are causing great surprise. It was customary to include Saudi Arabia among the more moderate Arab countries. Could its huge procurement of modern offensive arms—long-range Chinese surface-to-surface missiles and now the arms deal of the century on the Tornado bombers—inspire it in a certain situation to join those countries which are actively hostile toward Israel?

[Peres] I believe we should differentiate between the reasons for the procurement and the repercussions of this move. I believe that the reason really is the Iran-Iraq war, the fear of Iran. This was the main motivation in purchasing the arms. However, once various types of arms have been purchased and once Saudi Arabia, a

financial empire, begins to feel titillated by its military muscles, it might become a different type of country from that known until now.

There are two major trends in the Middle East. One aspires to renew war, to further the arms race, to oppose a compromise, and I believe such conditions could be created as a result of arming on such a level and, no less important, the fact that money spent on arms will not be available to help rehabilitate the economies of many other countries. Money eaten up by arms will not be available for social and economic advancement in the Middle East.

[Shilon] You often claim that the major Western countries—the United States and Britain—basically agree with your approach that the conflict should be resolved through peaceful means as soon as possible in order to exploit every opportunity. But now we see Britain, and the United States as well, jumping at every opportunity to arm the countries in the region. The Americans are very angry with us for their failure to cinch the deal with the Saudis.

[Peres] The truth is that the United States is much more careful about the quantities and trends of the arms race. The problem is, as I said before, that there are two wars; therefore there are two justifications. There is the Iran-Iraq war and there is the Arab-Israeli conflict. Sometimes justification is found for one of the wars, while in the final analysis the repercussions will affect the other conflict. This is the main problem. Should we turn to the British or Americans, they will say: What do you want? The Saudis are threatened by the Iranians. Remember what happened during last year's hajj, etc.

The Iran-Iraq war seems to be waning, at least temporarily. Therefore, such an enormous arms deal arouses surprise, as it is out of proportion. Of course, there is also the interest of the countries that sell the arms. They have a clear-cut economic interest, as the deal includes not only arms, but also a large construction project involving airfields and bases. This is certainly a very grave issue. Just as they want to sell there are those who want to buy, and who knows where this will lead.

[Shilon] You recalled the Iran-Iraq war. As is generally known, Saudi Arabia backs Iraq against Iran. The combination of the Saudis and Iraqis constitutes a huge military power in both the quantity and quality of arms. Iraq also knows how to fight well, as we have witnessed lately. Do you believe this is the time to reevaluate future developments in that region and, instead of counting on Iran after Khomeyni, develop an Iraqi-Saudi orientation?

[Peres] The expression that we are counting on Iran slightly surprises me. How could we even consider counting on Khomeyni?

[Shilon] I mean Iran after Khomeyni.

[Peres] I do not know what will happen in Iran after Khomeyni because the religious establishment there has dug deep roots, and I do not know how long it will take Iran to undergo a modern revolution like the one the shah tried to bring about.

[Shilon] At one stage we hoped that Iran would win. Where do we stand now?

[Peres] I do not know who hoped that Iran would win.

[Shilon] What of all those reports about arms deals between Israel and Iran?

[Peres] No, no. I am talking to an Israeli audience, and I am speaking earnestly and honestly. There was a limited arms deal because of our desire to help the United States free its hostages. It was never more than $10-$20 million, which is a drop in the bucket in terms of the costs of that war. We never provided arms to Iran out of a desire to see it win. How could Israel live with Iran under Khomeyni?

Everything we stand for historically and ideologically runs counter to what Khomeyni wants to do in the Middle East, from his crusade against any expression of progress in the region to his crusade, which he refers to day and night, to make his way to Jerusalem. We represent two different worlds, two different approaches.

[Shilon] Sir, to conclude, with your wise and realistic approach do you see anything that could lead to real progress in the peace process even before the elections? Could we include in that context last week's visit by the Romanian president's personal emissary?

[Peres] Many visits, emissaries, and opportunities could be included in that context, but Israel has reached the moment when it must provide its answer. Israel cannot go everywhere in the world and cite Husayn, Ceausescu, Reagan, and 'Arafat. The central question is what Israel is saying. Israel must decide what it wants.

[Shilon] This is what you would like to see. I asked whether there has been any progress. Do you see anything real happening before the November elections?

[Peres] Provide me with an Israeli answer and I will provide you with opportunities in the Middle East. This is my true answer. Israel must decide. Let us say that opportunities do exist. I am one of those who does not get excited about everything written in the media about the death of the Jordanian option. Anyway, an option is not an organism; it cannot die. It certainly exists, just as some other option and different possibilities exist. The hour to decide is now and here in Israel. We must decide. Without that I see no chance of progress.

[Shilon] Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, thank you.

[Peres] Thank you.

Delegation to USSR Within 'Next Few Days'

TA1107110188 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed a short while ago that Israel has received six entry visas for the consular delegation to the Soviet Union. Peres estimates that the delegation will leave for Moscow within the next few days, and the current delay is caused solely by technical problems.

[Begin Peres recording] I will meet with the delegation prior to their departure, and we will have to thoroughly examine the rate of progress and its direction. We will stand firm with regard to our interests, but we also wish to expand and develop that thin thread which currently exists between us and the Soviet Union. [end recording]

Envoy Reports 'New' PLO Stand on Autonomy

TA1007053888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 10 Jul 88 p 1

[Report by Menahem Shalev]

[Text] The PLO is willing to engage in direct negotiations with Israel aimed at achieving an autonomy-style interim arrangement, sources in Jerusalem said last night. The sources said that Romanian envoy Constantin Mitea reported to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres on the new PLO position following talks held in Bucharest recently between President Nicolae Ceausescu and PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

'Arafat's position as presented by Mitea might present a significant shift in PLO policies. The document written by PLO spokesman Bassam Abu Sharif which was distributed at last month's Algiers summit also spoke of direct negotiations but has not been publicly endorsed by 'Arafat.

According to Mitea, 'Arafat told Ceausescu that following the institution of an interim settlement based on the general lines of the Camp David autonomy agreement, Israel and the Palestinians would conduct negotiations on the final settlement within the framework of an international conference.

Mitea urged both Shamir and Peres to conduct negotiations with the PLO. Shamir rejected the suggestion outright, while Peres reacted guardedly, saying that Israel will not conduct negotiations with "terror organizations," but is willing to hold talks with inhabitants of the territories.

Mitea invited both Peres and Shamir to visit Romania, and both accepted, although it was unclear whether such visits will take place before the elections. Both Shamir and Peres had rejected an earlier invitation by Ceausescu to visit Romania this week, leading to the decision to dispatch Mitea to the area.

Government To Return Confiscated Funds

TA0907184888 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The Defense Ministry has decided that funds received from abroad which were confiscated on suspicion that they were sent by the PLO will be returned to Judaea and Samaria inhabitants with U.S. citizenship.

A senior Defense Ministry source told our correspondent Victor Nahmias that the amount comes to some $250,000 which was confiscated in the past 3 months on suspicion that it was earmarked for funding the uprising. The source added that any funds which can be proved to originate from non-PLO sources will be returned to its owners abroad [as heard].

Inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria will in the future continue to be able to receive personal funds from outside the area according to existing regulations and after receiving prior permission from the authorities.

Arab Mayors Return From Fund-Raising in Jordan

TA1107045888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Several Arab mayors in the territories have returned from Jordan, where they appealed to officials there for aid to bail out their financially strapped municipalities. One example was Bethlehem, which reportedly did not pay June salaries to its 180 municipal employees. Steve Rodan reports:

The question Arab municipal officials are asking is: Will Jordan renew aid to municipalities in the territories, and who will get it? It is a crucial question for several municipalities in Judaea and Samaria which, in the course of the Palestinian uprising, are running out of cash and cannot continue projects or even pay bills.

In the past week, two Arab mayors went to Amman to press for aid. Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj was successful. The mayor would not specify, but sources close to him say he received 50,000 Jordanian dinars, or about $150,000. The sum is not a windfall by any measure, but municipal sources say it is more than enough to pay the June salaries of 180 Bethlehem town employees. Sources say despite the money, Bethlehem's financial situation remains serious. Mayor Frayj would not be interviewed.

Arab sources say Jordan is willing to give money but, with certain exceptions, Amman does not want to give the money directly to municipalities. Instead, Jordan

prefers to give the money to so-called tanmiyah [development] committees. These are committees composed of Jordanian loyalists who distribute the money, often on the basis of the amount of loyalty an Arab mayor is willing to give to Jordan rather than of actual need.

The committee is highly resented by pro-PLO Palestinians. Some mayors, like Bayt Sahur's Hanna al-Atrash, say they will not take such money. He has spent the last few days in Jordan trying to convince authorities there to provide the aid directly to his municipality and not to the committee. Arab sources doubt that Al-Atrash will convince the kingdom, but some Arab municipalities will get the money directly.

They include municipalities such as Hebron, whose mayor was appointed with Jordanian approval. Arab sources say the aid given to the appointed mayors is a signal that despite its rhetoric and support of the intifada [uprising], Amman still fears Palestinians with popular support.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

10 Ordered Expelled

TA0807161788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Expulsion orders were issued today against four inhabitants of the Gaza Strip and six inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. The IDF spokesman said the 10 are active in terrorist organizations, and have played a major role in organizing and carrying out the uprising in the territories in recent months.

All had served jail terms for hostile activities, and continued their actions during their detention and after their release. The expulsion orders were signed by the commanders of the Southern and Central Commands.

The 10 will have the right to appeal to an advisory committee attached to the Army commands, as well as to the High Court of Justice.

Youth Killed in Tubas

TA0807172288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The body of a youth from Tubas was brought to a Nabulus hospital this afternoon. It was reported that the IDF is investigating the circumstances of his death.

AFP reports that there was a clash between demonstrators and IDF soldiers in Tubas. One youth was killed and another demonstrator was slightly wounded from IDF fire. The correspondent also reported that in an incident in Nabulus this morning three inhabitants were wounded. It had previously been reported that two people were wounded.

5 Gaza Arabs Detained

TA0807175088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1715 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Here is an item just in: Five Gaza Arabs were arrested tonight by the Bet Shemesh Police when they tried to flee after attacking a Kefar Menahem resident. Our correspondent Uri Koeh-Aharonov reports that the Kefar Menahem kibbutz member noticed the five near his fields and suspected that they were trying to steal something.

He drove in their direction, but they tried to escape in their vehicle. The owner of the fields tried to stop them. The Arabs got out of the vehicle armed with an axe, attacked the Israeli, and damaged his vehicle. Another man tried to intervene, but the five also damaged his vehicle. When they returned to their vehicle in order to flee, the police arrived, and after a chase they were detained.

General Strike, Disturbances

TA0907092588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] There are disturbances and a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza today. Our correspondent reports that a 2-day commercial strike was declared by the Unified National Command of the Uprising, which coordinates the unrest in the territories. The strike will mark the 7-month anniversary of the intifada [uprising] and protest the Syrian massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon.

There were violations of the public order in two refugee camps: In the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem youths rioted this morning. They pelted IDF patrols with rocks. An IDF unit caught one of the stonethrowers and was then attacked by the youth's relatives who were trying to set him free. They also tried to snatch one of the soldiers' personal weapon. The soldier fired a rubber bullet at the snatcher, injuring him.

The unrest continued and several youths were later slightly injured by rubber bullets. In the Farah refugee camp near Nabulus, an Arab youth was wounded by gunfire last night. He was brought to Al-Maqasid hospital in Jerusalem. According to Arab sources, he was wounded by IDF shots. The IDF is checking the report.

The curfew on the Al-Nusayrat, Al-Shati', Al-Burayj, and Jabalyah refugee camps in the Gaza Strip continues.

The Jerusalem police used tear gas to disperse youths who set up roadblocks near Rockefeller Park in the eastern part of the city. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that youths from the Jabal al-Mukabar neighborhood set up barricades and flew PLO flags this morning.

Rioters, Soldier Wounded

TA0907154688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] There were disturbances and a general strike in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip in response to the demand of the Unified National Command of the Uprising to mark the 7-month anniversary of the intifada [uprising].

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that three people from the village of 'Arurah in the Ramallah district, including a woman, were brought to a Ramallah hospital last night. They claimed that they had been beaten by soldiers. Arab sources said that one of them, who is suffering from grievous bodily wounds, complained several weeks ago that soldiers buried him alive on the outskirts of the village.

Military sources said that an IDF force which came to make arrests in the villages of 'Abwayn and 'Arurah were attacked with stones and bottles by groups of youths on the main road and its path was blocked. One of the soldiers was slightly wounded in the shoulder. The soldiers tried to arrest the rioters, and during the chase some of the youths who resisted arrest were wounded and transferred to a hospital.

In the Ayda refugee camp near Bethlehem, youths stoned IDF patrols this morning, and one of the rioters was wounded.

An Arab youth in the Farah refugee camp in Samaria was shot and wounded last night.

In Jerusalem, a police force used tear gas at noon to disperse rioters near the Al-Magasid Hospital in the eastern part of the city. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that when studies ended students at the nearby school stoned vehicles and policemen. To repeat, they were dispersed with tear gas.

This morning, tear gas was used to disperse rioters in Rockefeller Park.

In Khan Yunus, an Arab youth was wounded in the leg during a riot this morning.

There were disturbances, gatherings, and tire burning in the Gaza Strip on the 7-month anniversary of the intifada. The security forces caught and arrested several youths who had participated in the riots.

Youth Killed in Jabalyah

TA0907181188 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] A youth was killed in the Jabalyah refugee camp during a riot. The IDF is investigating the circumstances of the incident.

6 'Slightly Wounded' in Riot

TA0907183088 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] Six people were slightly wounded today during riots in the Ayda refugee camp in the Bethlehem area. One of the six was shot with a rubber bullet while the others were wounded when soldiers used reasonable force during the dispersal of a riot, military sources said. A curfew was imposed on the camp.

The sources said an IDF patrol was attacked by a group of camp residents. A soldier was slightly wounded in the shoulder. Soldiers arrested a youth who hurled stones. His relatives tried to release him by force and to snatch a soldier's weapon. The soldier fired a rubber bullet wounding one inhabitant. As reported, five others were wounded when resisting arrest. [passage omitted]

Ramallah Area 'Sealed Off'

TA1007082988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The IDF has sealed off the Ramallah area and declared it a closed military zone. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that no reason was given for the move. The curfew imposed on the Al-Am'ari and Al-Jalazun refugee camps continues. There is a complete commercial strike in the territories and in East Jerusalem to mark the start of the 8th month of the uprising and to protest the massacre of Palestinians in Lebanon in which the Syrians are participating. [Jerusalem Domestic in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 10 July also reports that, "Police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse a riot in the village of Silwan in Jerusalem."]

Youth Shot Dead in Riot

TA1007092688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] A 17-year-old youth was killed this morning by IDF gunfire during a riot near the 'Askar refugee camp in the Nabulus area. Our correspondent Arye Gus quotes military sources as saying that according to an initial investigation, an IDF vehicle stopped at a roadblock made of stones and burning tires.

Dozens of youths attacked the vehicle with a hail of stones. The lives of the soldiers inside were endangered and therefore they fired several shots to extricate themselves. The youth was shot in the hip and died in the ('Itihad) Hospital in Nabulus. A curfew was imposed on the 'Askar refugee camp.

Cabinet Briefed on Disturbances

TA1007160888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Police Minister Hayim Bar-Lev today told the Cabinet that 95 disturbances occurred in Jerusalem and environs last week, while 15 such incidents took place

inside the Green Line. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the minister further told the Cabinet that 55 suspects were detained, and 5 policemen and 4 civilians were slightly injured during these incidents.

Administrative Detention for 2

TA1007164088 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] On orders of the Army, two inhabitants of the village of Al-Reina near Nazareth have been placed under administrative detention for 6 months. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar says this is the fourth time that Army authorities have placed Israeli citizens from villages in the Galilee and the Triangle under administrative detention.

'Terrorist' Squad Uncovered

TA1007170588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Report by Arye Gus]

[Text] Our correspondent in the territories, Arye Gus, has just brought in this report concerning the uncovering of a five-member squad responsible for terrorist acts directed against the security forces and residents suspected of collaborating with the authorities. The squad was uncovered by the security forces in the Gaza Strip. Here is his report:

The security forces today demolished the Gaza Strip homes of the five squad members, who had hurled Molotov cocktails at the security forces, attacked with knives and other cold weapons Arab residents whom they suspected of collaboration, and prepared improvised explosive charges to be used against the IDF patrols. Three of the demolished houses are in the Al-Burayj refugee camp and the two others in Al-Shaja'iyah in Gaza.

IDF Wounds Arab Youth

TA1007192388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] An Arab youth was wounded by IDF fire in the Nabulus casbah as he was about to hurl a brick at the troops. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that numerous incidents of disturbances, accompanied by the throwing of stones at IDF soldiers, took place in the Nabulus casbah this afternoon. In one of the incidents, the troops noticed a youth about to hurl a brick from one of the roofs and fired several shots in his direction.

Our correspondent notes the Nabulus casbah was the scene of an incident several months ago in which an IDF soldier was hit in his head by a stone, causing him to be permanently paralyzed.

Bus Hit With Molotov Cocktail

TA1107050288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] A Molotov cocktail was thrown last night at a No 43 bus traveling in Al-'Ayzariyah in East Jerusalem. No one was hurt. The bus driver put out the flames himself.

2 Firebombs Thrown in Gaza

TA1107110988 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Two firebombs were thrown at an Israeli vehicle on the main street in Gaza. One firebomb landed on the awning of a local store and caught fire. The merchants extinguished the blaze. The second hit a military vehicle and fell on the road. Nobody was wounded and there was no damage. Our correspondent Ezra Yanuv reports that the area was closed and people were detained.

Committee Decides To Support Uprising Legally

TA1007083788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The Committee of Local Arab Councils has decided to support the uprising in the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that in an extraordinary meeting in the township of Shefar'am it was decided that support would be expressed through the collection of funds, clothing, food, medicine, and other activities within the law.

The participants say the aim is to bring about a just peace between the Palestinian and Israeli peoples. The gathering at Shefar'am also denounced Syria for supporting the Abu Musa dissidents in Lebanon which, it said, weakens the PLO.

It was earlier announced that Knesset Member Muhammad Watad has left MAPAM. He has resigned as head of its information department in the Arab sector and as editor of the MAPAM newspaper in Arabic.

King Husayn Makes Working Visit to Cairo

Departs Amman 9 Jul

JN0907112788 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn left Amman at noon today for Cairo on a working visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he will talk with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on issues of common interest and regional developments. His majesty's delegation comprises Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Royal Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim, and Commander in Chief Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir.

On hand to see off his majesty were Their Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, and Deputy Prime Minister Thuqan al-Hindawi, along with other senior officials and the Egyptian charge d'affaires in Amman.

Returns Same Day

JN0907173688 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and the delegation accompanying him returned home today following a short working visit to Egypt. During the visit, he held talks with His Excellency President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on all issues in the Arab world and the progress of joint cooperation between the two fraternal countries. [passage omitted]

Minister Denies Call for Political Party

JN1007073988 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 88 p 1

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Interior Minister Raja'i al-Dajani has denied that a number of Jordanian personalities had requested permission to form a political party in the Kingdom.

In an interview with Saudi Arabia's AL-JAZIRAH newspaper appearing Sunday, Al-Dajani said the question of political parties in Jordan was governed by provisions of a 1955 law.

"All political parties in the Arab world are opposed to this law and contradict the articles of the Jordanian Constitution," the minister said. Therefore, he added, no such political parties will be allowed to conduct any activities in Jordan.

The minister also said Jordan had never stopped issuing passports to citizens from the Gaza Strip who qualify for the document under the passports regulations and there had been no amendment or cancellation of earlier decisions in this matter.

"This issue is by no means connected to relations between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)," the minister added.

Al-Dajani paid tribute to Jordanian-Saudi relations, which, he said, "are being constantly strengthened under the wise guidance of Their Majesties King Husayn and King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz."

Referring to measures by both countries to combat drug trafficking, the minister said Jordan and Saudi Arabia were linked by a security agreement which provides for full cooperation in the border regions to combat smuggling, infiltration and crime.

The minister praised Saudi authorities for their care for pilgrims to Mecca. He said Jordan strongly supports Saudi Arabia's decision to limit the number of pilgrims from each Islamic country as was endorsed by the Amman Arab summit meeting last November.

Official on Treatment of 'Uprising' Wounded

JN1007114488 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1012 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Amman, 10 Jul (PETRA-JNA)—Dr. Yasir 'Ubayd, director of health in Jerusalem, has affirmed that, for many years, Jordan has been receiving all the patients residing in the West Bank for treatment without charge, if treatment was not available for them in the West Bnak.

He said in a news statement that he personally transfers around 50 to 90 cases a month from the West Bank to Jordan, specifically to the King Husayn Medical Centre and the Jordan University Hospital, in addition to major Ministry of Health hospitals, where they are treated free of charge.

He added that the Jordanian Government had transferred a number of the patients who had been transferred to it from the West Bank to hospitals in London and other places on its own account, especially those who could not be provided with the necessary treatment, among whom were some youths with eye injuries.

He said: Jordan welcomes every patient from the West Bank for treatment there. Recently, since the uprising started, we have transferred a large number of patients from the Gaza Strip and people injured in the uprising to Jordan to receive treatment. I have personally transferred more than 200 patients wounded in the uprising to Jordanian Government hospitals in Amman.

Dr 'Ubayd categorically denied reports that Jordan had returned some of the injured and sick from the West Bank who sought treatment in Jordanian hospitals and said that such news was totally devoid of truth.

He said that Arab health ministers, in the conference they held in Amman at the beginning of last April, issued a resolution that Jordan should be the first station to receive any person injured in the uprising. These people are to be treated in Jordan or in any other Arab country. Jordan will transfer some of the wounded to the Arab countries they wish to be transferred for treatment.

UK Paper Says 10 Hostages Taken Out of Beirut

LD1007151688 Kuwait KUNA in English 1333 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 10 (KUNA)—The British Foreign Office disclaimed any knowledge Sunday of a report that ten Western hostages have been "suddenly spirited" out of their underground prison in Beirut.

Quoting "Western intelligence sources", THE SUNDAY EXPRESS newspaper claimed they have been moved either to a Hizballah stronghold in the Al Biqa' Valley or to a remote Kurdish mountain outpost on the Iran-Iraq border.

All or some of the hostages would be taken later to Tehran, the weekly added.

The British press has recently been awash with speculations about the fate of the British hostages held in Lebanon and some newspapers had suggested that they would be freed shortly after the Syrian forces had entered the southern suburbs of Beirut last month to stop fighting between rival Shi'ite militiamen.

But the Foreign Office continued to stress that it did not have any firm evidence about the whereabouts or the fate of the Anglican Church envoy, Terry Waite, TV journalist, John McCarthy, and Belfast teacher, Brian Keenan.

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS said that first indication that the hostages' next prison might now be in Kurdistan has come in a "mysterious letter" received by the British Kurdish Bureau from two Lebanese who claimed that they saw and spoke briefly to Waite on three occasions at the end of May in Beirut.

A Foreign Office spokesman said "We are trying to obtain a copy of the said letter. We know that Kurdish rebels and Hizballah have contact with each other. But there is no sympathy between members of the two factions".

THE SUNDAY EXPRESS said the letter, written in Arabic and posted from Turkey, was signed by two Lebanese who said they had been "detained" for a time in the Lebanese capital.

The letter said that it appeared that Waite had been "treated badly" and looked "very tired and under pressure".

The paper said that no further details were given, "but credence has been added to the letter by later independent reports received by intelligence sources".

Fadlallah Urges U.S. Withdrawal From Gulf

LD0907142688 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut, July 9, IRNA—Prominent Lebanese theologian 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah described U.S. missile attack on Iran Air airbus and genocide of its passengers as "international crime parallel with other U.S. schemes to create tension in the region."

Speaking to worshippers in southern Beirut, 'Allamah Fadlallah said that the U.S. brought its war ships to the Persian Gulf to strengthen its lackeys and prevent downfall of Saddam Husayn. He said the U.S. always encouraged Iraq in its tanker war but described Iran's retaliation as "making Persian Gulf navigation insecure." He added the U.S. cannot realise that the Muslim nation of Iran has been more unified as a result of its attack on the Iran airliner.

He called for immediate withdrawal of U.S. warships from the Persian Gulf saying that the attacks on the airliner is a good reason why the U.S. warships should get out of the waterway.

He expressed hope that every opportunity will be exploited in order to give a due response to the U.S.

Fatah Opposition Leader Cited on 'Arafat's Plans

Accused of 'Massing Troops'

NC1007150188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muraghah], leader of Fatah-the Uprising, today accused PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat of massing troops in the South to attack Syrian positions. Abu Musa told REUTER that the information received by his organization indicates that 'Arafat is preparing to engage Syrian forces in Iqlim al-Kharrub. He added that Syria intervened in the camps war issue only to stop the fighting.

Car Bombings Planned

JN1107062388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa, Sa'id Musa [Muragha], secretary of the provisional leadership of Fatah-the Uprising, has said that all the Palestinian sides and Lebanese national forces know very well that Syria did not intervene in the fratricide that took place in the Beirut camps.

In an interview with REUTER, which was broadcast yesterday by most Arab and international media, he said that our information indicates that 'Arafat is preparing for clashes in the Al-Kharrub area, and that he is massing his troops in southern Lebanon for this purpose.

Abu Musa said that 'Arafat and his cliques have shelled Burj al-Barajinah from the mountains to accuse us of the shelling. Abu Musa said that 'Arafat has trained his men in camps in the eastern sector of Beirut, which is run by the Lebanese Forces militia, to launch attacks with booby-trapped cars in Beirut.

He added: We are watching them very closely. We ask the Lebanese Forces to shut down these camps or we will deal directly with them. He pointed out that he is holding contacts with UNRWA and Syria to rebuild the destroyed camps.

Abu Musa said that 'Arafat's 120 fighters, who left Burj al-Barajinah camp, included 30 Syrians belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood gangs, 40 Lebanese who belong to the Islamic Unification Movement in north Lebanon, and 15 men of the ALF, which follows the Iraqi regime.

Abu Musa added that the camp's military commander, Sultan Abu al-'Aynayn, was not living in the camp. This means that 'Arafat has no supporters in the camp.

Regarding the presence of his troops in southern Lebanon, Abu Musa said that his troops have a strong presence in the Al-Rashidiyah camp in Tyre. He added that we feel that an advance post has been created in Sidon to fight Israel and its allies. We do not want to fight 'Arafat, but we want to contribute to the fight against Israel.

Fatah Denies Plans for 'Battle' in Sidon

NC1007142688 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1335 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Dear Listeners: Lebanon's branch of Fatah has issued the following statement:

We are surprised by statements carried by news agencies in which a PNSF spokesman accused the Fatah Movement of preparing for battles against the PNSF and warned of a battle in Sidon similar to what took place in Tripoli. We regret such statements, which are laying the grounds for a new battle against the Palestinian presence in Sidon. The fraternal relations binding all the groups in Sidon completely contradicts such statements.

We know of no misunderstanding with any group at all. This week, all the groups approved the establishment of a security force to serve our masses and to foil those seeking to incite sedition. We are eager to maintain and continue this relationship with all Palestinian organizations so as to form a real front for confronting any aggression against our Palestinian people and revolution.

Our masses in Sidon are fully aware that there is no justification for creating a dispute and spreading rumors that aim to complete the Syrian plot, which has undertaken the task of containing the Palestinian revolution, robbing it of its independent decisionmaking power, and liquidating the Palestinian presence in the Sidon region.

We call on all Palestinian groups to give priority to the protection of the Palestinian people and their gains in the struggle, and to prevent new fighting, particularly in these fateful and critical circumstances which require a Palestinian stand of support for our kinsmen's uprising in the occupied territories.

On the basis of our concern for the safety and security of our camps in Sidon, we appeal to our people to work patiently and persistently to foil the attempts of those with suspicious plots, and to maintain the unity of the internal Palestinian stand. Revolution until victory.

Birri Returns From Talks in Damascus 10 Jul

NC1107080888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri returned to Beirut late last night after holding a series of consultations and meetings with Syrian officials.

Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan and an Amal Movement delegation left for Damascus last night. They will have talks with Syrian officials as part of the current preparations for the presidential election.

Syria's Al-Asad, Al-Jumayyil To Meet in August

NC1007073388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0655 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Jul (MENA)—A senior Lebanese official has announced that Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil will hold a summit meeting in Damascus by mid-August to agree on the next president of Lebanon.

In a statement to the Abu Dhabi-based newspaper AL-ITTIHAD published today, the same official affirmed that a high-ranking U.S. envoy, possibly Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy, will visit both Damascus and Beirut prior to the summit meeting to inform them of Washington's stand on the forthcoming Lebanese presidential election. The official expects the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies to convene on 17 August to elect a new president.

Islamic Amal Leader Cited on Overthrow of Regime

NC1107061088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Islamic Amal Movement leader Husayn al-Musawi has said he is not concerned about who will be the next president of the Republic because he does not recognize the legality of this republic.

We support all those who are prepared to try to bring down this regime, which is subservient to Zionism and America, and establish a just and righteous regime, he said. He who governs Lebanon, Al-Musawi added, must be a follower of our Islamic nation's line.

Al-Asad, Khaddam Receive Tunisian Delegation

JN0907120588 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] At 1315 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Hamed Karoui, director of the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally, and Taib Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Foreign Ministry in Tunisia. The Tunisian ambassador in Damascus attended.

Karoui delivered to President Hafiz al-Asad a letter from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Discussion concerned the Arab and regional situation and developments as well as bilateral relations.

At 1000 today, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received the Tunisian delegation under Dr Hamed Karoui, director of the Tunisian Destourian Democratic Rally, accompanied by Taib Sahbani, secretary of state attached to the Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Tunisian ambassador in Damascus. The Arab situation and bilateral relations were discussed .

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Shi'ite Leader 10 Jul

JN1007134688 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] At 1245 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council in Lebanon. Talks centered on the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Asad Discusses Lebanon With Scholar Fadlallah

JN1107114888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] At 1130 this morning, President Hafiz al-Asad received the scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Talks centered on the situation in Lebanon.

Al-Zu'bi Offers Condolences Over Airbus Downing

JN0907154488 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1515 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Excerpt] This afternoon, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, along with a number of Cabinet ministers, called at the Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Al-Zu'bi offered the Syrian Government's condolences over the victims of the Iranian civilian airliner that was shot down by a U.S. Navy vessel deployed in the Gulf. [passage omitted]

Friendship Societies Formed With Cyprus

JN1107063888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Two parliamentary friendship societies were formed today in both Damascus and Nicosia to strengthen the relations of friendship and cooperation between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Cyprus and to coordinate cooperation on issues of interest to the MP's of both countries.

'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, speaker of the People's Assembly in the Syrian Arab Republic, heads the Syrian-Cypriot friendship society, and Dr Vassos Lissaridhis, president of the House of Representatives, heads the Cypriot-Syrian friendship society.

Today, the head of the Syrian Arab delegation in Cyprus delivered a message from People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah to Vassos Lissaridhis, president of the House of Representatives, and received from him a similar message on the occasion of the formation of the two friendship societies.

Commentaries View Palestinian Camps Fighting

Radio Cites AL-THAWRAH

JN0807071188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says: A review of the behavior of the deviationist Palestinian right wing and of its seditions and conspiracies, whether in Lebanon or in Palestine, clearly shows that they are always linked to a scheme that is hostile to the Arab nation and to the Arab masses' struggle. There is no better evidence of this than the close connection between the eruption of internecine fighting in the camps and the submission of the capitulatory and defeatist document—the so-called Abu Sharif document—and the defeatist and Zionist moves to circumvent and abort the heroic uprising in the occupied Palestinian homeland.

AL-THAWRAH adds: The 'Arafatist clique believes that by igniting fighting in the camps it will obscure the occupied homeland's uprising and will divert the Arab masses' attention from the new, conspiratorial 'Arafat-Abu Sharif deal. However, all indications show that the Palestinian masses, particularly their revolutionary militant factions, together with the Arab masses and their nationalist and pan-Arab parties and forces, possess the necessary military experience to confront the new 'Arafatist moves and block the imperialist- Zionist scheme.

The implementation of this scheme has been entrusted to the deviationist Palestinian right wing so that the occupied homeland's uprising may continue to glow and the fierce confrontations our masses are carrying out against the Zionist enemy may remain the expression of the Palestinian Arab people's policy. The Palestinian people have repudiated the course of capitulation and its tools and have chosen armed popular struggle as the course for liberating their land and regaining their rights.

Syria will continue to support the heroic uprising in the occupied territories and embrace it, for it is the only hope and the realistic basis for the attainment of victory in the battle of liberation.

Radio on Burj al-Barajinah

JN0907072388 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Beirut—Fighting finally stopped this morning in Burj al-Barajinah camp after the pro-'Arafat elements of sedition and infighting were removed from the camp. Since this morning, the camp has witnessed general calm and a return of normal life.

The inhabitants of the camp are pleased with the removal of the pro-'Arafat elements. They have begun to remove the effects of the infighting started by 'Arafat and his clique. Committees were set up by the Fatah-Provisional Command to help the inhabitants and to supervise the removal of debris. Observers have described the situation inside the camp as very positive. Citizens who were forced to leave the camp during the clashes began returning to their homes this morning to repair the damage. They expressed their thanks for the efforts exerted by Syria to put a final stop to the fighting and return the situation to normal. The end of the fighting and suspect activities in the Beirut camps was welcomed by Lebanese nationalist and progressive forces, who want to devote their attention to confronting the Zionist enemy and liberating the south.

In the meantime, a spokesman for the Fatah-Provisional Command has announced the cessation of all military operations in Burj al-Barajinah camp. In a statement issued today, the spokesman called on all the camp's inhabitants to return to their homes and resume their normal life, no longer affected by the state of sabotage, wantonness, and corruption that the pro-'Arafat elements maintained previously. The spokesman also called upon all devout nationalist forces and all international social and humanitarian institutions to help reconstruct the camps and help their inhabitants to overcome any obstacles in this respect.

Colonel Sa'id Musa [Muraghah], Abu Musa, secretary of the Fatah-Provisional Command, has called upon all Palestinian nationalist forces to pool their efforts and resources immediately to reconstruct the Palestinian camps in Beirut, which sustained much damage prior to these developments.

Radio Cites AL-THAWRAH 9 Jul

JN0907071888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Deviants' Plot Fell," AL-THAWRAH says: When the late Al-Sadat decided to pay his ill-omened visit to occupied Jerusalem he announced that Lebanon would turn into a bloodbath. Henry Kissinger, the dear friend of the Zionists, shared this announcement with Al-Sadat. When this became true, Arab Lebanon experienced this bloody situation as a result of the imperialist-Zionist plot. This plot intended the bloody fighting to cover up the largest plot against the Palestinian cause, the Arabs' main cause, through the traitorous Camp David accords.

AL-THAWARAH continues: When the forces plotting against Lebanon failed to fulfil their schemes to divide and fragment Lebanon, the deviant right-wing Palestinian clique wanted to inflame the situation once again in Lebanon, and in the Palestinian camps in particular, for the same purposes, which this time were part of the plans of the traitorous Abu Sharif document. Those who support the course of deviation and capitulation want this document to become a credible paper on the bargaining table and favor separate negotiations with the Zionist entity—which would be a humiliation.

AL-THAWRAH adds: What is really strange—and perhaps this is no longer strange in the practices of the deviant course—is to see a Palestinian deviant course which has dropped the rifle from its program, instigating infighting in the Palestinian camps in Beirut. This is taking place at a time when the escalation of the valiant uprising in the occupied homeland calls on everyone to unite their efforts and rifles to escalate resistance and entrench militancy in support of the kinfolk's struggle against the Zionist enemy and the struggle of the Arab masses, the national backer of the uprising. However, the deviant clique, which has exposed its capitulatory, liquidatory program many times in many of its positions which embrace the parties to the Camp David, hurried to inflame the situation in the Palestinian camps in Beirut in a desperate attempt to dictate its political program over the Palestinians and to confuse the Lebanese through flareups which only serve the Zionist enemy.

AL-THAWRAH says: The facts leave no room for doubt about the objectives of those who are weeping at the heroic uprising. Those same people gave the Zionist enemy a knife with which to slaughter the uprising and a life preserver to save itself from the impasse resulting from the continuation and escalation of the uprising. The illusions of the deviant right-wing clique have been exposed. This clique wanted to stir-up the situation in the Lebanese camps to cover the document of shame and treason signed by Abu Sharif. What took place and the opposite results of what the deviant course planned affirm that Lebanon and the Palestinian camps there no longer constitute a base or a road to the plots of the deviants, who pursuing the American-Zionist settlement schemes. Lebanon and the Palestinian camps there will never become an arena for their tamperings and practices which are hostile to the aspirations and ambitions of the Arab masses.

Afghanistan

Cordovez Views Implementation of Geneva Accords

LD0807064688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 7, BAKHTAR—Diego Cordovez, personal envoy of UN secretary general on his arrival at Kabul International Airport gave a press interview to domestic and foreign journalists.

D. Cordovez said at the beginning of the press interview that in the course of his current visit to the region he will assess the implementation of the Geneva agreements. "During his talks with the high-ranking authorities of Pakistan, he found out that there exists the determination for implementation of the Geneva agreement," of course, "we heal preliminary serious problems but I am sure these problems will be solved", he noted. [sentence as received] Pakistani authorities have promised, to observe the Geneva agreements.

Replying a question raised by a SIHAO correspondent, he rejected that he had proposed holding a traditional Loya Jirgah (Grand Assembly) for solution of the situation around Afghanistan during his visit to one of the camps of "mujahidin" in Peshawar. "What I have said and stressed repeatedly upon is that all issues relating to Afghanistan should be tackled by the Afghan themselves. No one has the right to impose his views upon them. Because the Afghans have rich traditions and in the course of history they have solved their many problems themselves. Therefore, such traditions can be utilised at the present situation". He noted.

Replying to another question, he viewed that it is up to Afghans to establish a government with broad social bases. The international organisations and other governments should not be involved. The return of the Soviet limited military contingents is going on. If after the return of the Soviet limited military contingents the differences and conflicts are continuing it is the Afghans who will be killed and no Afghan likes it. Diego Cordovez pointed out that all Afghans regardless where they are living at the moment have become fed up of war. He expressed confidence that Afghans instead of war and bloodshed will solve their problems through peaceful means.

He said that he conducted satisfactory talks with Iranian authorities. Iranians said that Geneva talks gave fruit. The Soviet soldiers return. The Iranian authorities expect that the Afghans would make necessary decisions for securing peace in the country.

He said that he did not meet with the "Seven Alliance", as they did not want to hold talks though he was ready for talk with any Afghans for the cause of peace.

Answering another question, he indicated that the Afghans should take the best advantage of the Geneva agreement, otherwise bloodshed will continue and more Afghans will be killed.

Diego Cordovez suggested that there are only two alternatives, one is military and war between Afghans and the other is peaceful political one. He hoped for Afghans to choose the peace alternative.

Urges 'Private' Talks

LD0907194888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] His Excellency Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's special envoy, answered questions from foreign and local correspondents before leaving for Islamabad from Kabul Airport.

When asked how he saw the results of his talks in Afghanistan, he replied: I think my visit was very useful. I had comprehensive discussions with his excellency the president of Afghanistan and the foreign minister. The president kindly invited me to lunch, where we continued our conversation.

Diego Cordovez said the Geneva accords had created a new style for the talks. On this basis, I have met with representatives of the guarantor countries in both Islamabad and Kabul. I have also met with the general responsible for the return of the Soviet forces. I can state with full satisfaction that the return of the forces is taking place according to plan and in full conformity with the Geneva accords. We also discussed a number of problems concerning the implementation of the Geneva accords. I hope that as a result of my talks in Islamabad and Kabul, the Geneva accords will be implemented fully in the future and all decisions will be put into practice. I was able to assess the preparations by the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan. We had Afghanistan's full cooperation on this. As such, I expressed my appreciation to the Afghan Government.

His Excellency Diego Cordovez was asked if there had been any difficulties in his talks with the Afghan side. He answered: We did have some problems. My visit was designed to hold talks in order to solve the difficulties; otherwise, I would not have come to the region.

Asked to specify the problems encountered in implementing the Geneva accords, Diego Cordovez replied:

I believe that by talking about the details of the problems, we would not be serving the interests of the Geneva accords. In fact, one goal of my visit is to ask both governments, that is, Afghanistan and Pakistan, to discuss their claims and accusations concerning violations of the Geneva accords in a very private way, free of propaganda. After all, those who oppose the Geneva accords benefit from such propaganda. There are a number of people who oppose these accords, and they

are persistent in doing so. They claim the accords are broken up [azham pasheda]. I have said several times that is not the case. Many of their provisions, including the return of the Soviet Forces, have been implemented in a satisfactory manner. Naturally, we expect problems. It is important that the Geneva accords have such a mechanism, which means that we anticipated problems. That is why a procedure was established.

My visit to the region is a function of my appointed role to find solutions to the problems. I do not want to be more specific than that. All I want to say is that my trip here has been very useful.

I have stressed many times that the Afghans should decide things themselves. Contrary to what the Western media say, I am not a mediator. The Afghans do not need a mediator to solve their political problems. If someone from the outside tried to arrange a specific solution and force the Afghans to accept it, such a settlement would be incorrect and illegal. My job is to (?encourage) and speed up a political solution to the conflict between the Afghans. At the United Nations, we believe that the parties involved in the Geneva talks want no additional bloodshed, and we do not want the military conflicts to continue. What we want is for the Afghans to find a peaceful, political solution. Of course, we offer a series of views and solutions in general. When you study the history of this country, you could say that the Afghan people's rich traditions could help them solve the problems.

As for his view of the recent explosions and shellings by extremists, which have caused casualties and financial losses, Cordovez remarked: I do not comment specifically on incidents like that. What I can say is that I oppose the loss of human life, however it may happen, especially where innocent people are concerned. Such actions should end. Thus, I favor political solutions, and am strongly against terrorist action. There is not a single problem in this regard. [sentence as heard]

Departs for Islamabad

LD0807181588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] D. Cordovez, the UN secretary general's special envoy, visited Kabul during a regional tour to assess the implementation of the Geneva accords. He described his 3 days of talks with Afghan officials as beneficial. He also expressed his appreciation for the sincere cooperation of the Afghan authorities with the UN bodies overseeing the implementation of the Geneva accords.

Cordovez and the members of his delegation left Kabul for Islamabad around 1200 today.

Cordovez and his party were seen off at Kabul Airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Farid Zarif; Foreign Ministry adviser (Sakhi Daneshjo); ('Abdul Ghafur Joshan), director of the Foreign Ministry's UN and International Relations Department and chief of protocol; (S.K. Benerji), head of the UN development program in Kabul; and members of the UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Cordovez held a news conference at Kabul Airport on the results of his visit to Afghanistan.

UN Given 42d Memorandum on Pakistan 'Violations'

LD0907174688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The Afghan Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reports that Afghanistan has given the mission its 42d memorandum on Pakistan's repeated and blatant violations of the Geneva accords.

The memorandum outlines six Pakistani violations of Document One, Article Two, providing specific information. In accordance with Document Four, Paragraph Seven of the Geneva accords, UMGOMAP has been asked to investigate the Pakistani violations and inform the UN secretary general's personal representative and the Republic of Afghanistan of its findings.

43d Memorandum Delivered

LD1007181588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jun 88

[Text] The Foreign Ministry's liaison office with UNGOMAP reports that the 43d Afghan memorandum on Pakistan's blatant violations of the Geneva accords was given to the mission this afternoon in Kabul.

The memorandum contains comprehensive and accurate information on six Pakistani violations of Document One, Article Two.

In line with Paragraph Seven of Document Four, the mission has been asked to investigate these violations and report back to the Afghan Government and the UN secretary general's envoy.

Soviet Embassy Briefs Press on POW's in Pakistan

LD1107080588 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 11 Jul 88

[Text] Kabul, July 10, BAKHTAR—The continued endeavours of the Government of the Soviet Union and the public circles of that country for the release of those Soviet soldiers held by extremists in the Pakistani territory was explained in a press conference here today.

Our military correspondent reports that during the conference Konarovskiy, advisor in the Soviet Embassy in Kabul said that the Government of the Soviet Union attempts to set the captive Soviet soldiers free from the bondage of the extremist groups.

In the Soviet Union, he went on to say, committees aimed for organising activities of all Soviet social organisations in this direction are set up, he said.

The Soviet Union has put the matter with the Pakistani Government for several times, he added.

Pakistan claims that as if [as received] the Soviet soldiers are not kept in Pakistan and they are living in the U.S. and other Western countries. On the contrary the "Seven Party Alliance" has repeatedly confessed on the existence of the Soviet soldiers in Pakistan, he stressed.

The stand of the Government of Pakistan in this matter is inhuman and against the norms of the human rights, Konarovskiy noted.

At the end of the conference Yankovskiy, a Soviet soldier responded to the questions raised in this connection by the domestic and foreign journalists.

Minister of Culture, Bank Governor Appointed

LD0907170088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The Office of the President reports that, in accordance with the proposal of the Council of Ministers, with the approval of the esteemed Afghan president, Najibullah, and in line with Article 104 of the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan, (Ahmad Bashir Roygar) has been appointed minister of culture and information, and (Mohammad Kabir) has been named governor of the Bank of Afghanistan.

Armed Forces, Rebel Operations, Clashes Continue

40 Injured in Kabul Blast

BK1007090688 Hong Kong AFP in English 0850 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 10 (AFP)—Another car bomb has exploded in Kabul, injuring 40 people, resistance sources said here Sunday.

The powerful bomb exploded Friday outside a Soviet military hospital in the Afghan capital, damaging several buildings in the area, the sources said. None of the casualties were patients at the hospital, they added.

It was the third car bomb blast in three days in Kabul, which has also been hit over the period by a series of rebel rocket attacks.

Radio Kabul said a total of at least 14 people were killed in the bomb and rocket attacks on Wednesday and Thursday.

Another 31 people were killed and 33 injured in a powerful car bomb Thursday in Jalalabad, the capital of the eastern Nangarhar Province, the radio said.

Afghan rebels have captured 16 military posts around Achin, a few kilometers (miles) from the Jalalabad garrison city, since stepping up attacks in the province on Friday, the resistance sources said.

The districts of Sorkh Rud, Daruntah, Chaprahar and Jalalabad airport were also under "heavy fire" by mujahidin under the command of Hezb-e-Eslami (Khalis) chief Muhammad Yunis Khalis, the sources said.

The sources gave no details on casualties but said that attacks were continuing.

The rebels have vowed to capture Jalalabad, a development which analysts said would pose a serious threat to Kabul, about 100 kilometres (60 miles) to the west.

Some 115,000 Soviet troops backing the Kabul government began to withdraw from Afghanistan in May under a U.N.-mediated accord signed in Geneva.

64 Casualties in Jalalabad

LD0807165188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] A number of citizens of Jalalabad, including men, women, and children, have been martyred in a crime by opposition extremists, and others have been injured. There has also been extensive damage.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports from Jalalabad that criminal extremists planted explosives in a [word indistinct] car in a crowded market near the Spinghar movie theater. This treacherous and inhumane act has led to the martyrdom of 31 of our compatriots, including men, women, and children, and the injury of another 33.

The market, along with 25 vehicles, was completely burned in this cowardly and inhumane action by the armed extremists. The Spinghar movie theater and 45 shops and homes were seriously damaged.

The injured, who were taken to the hospital immediately, are said to be in satisfactory condition.

Kabul, Qandahar Attacked

BK0907025088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin launched rocket attacks last week on military positions and installations used by the Najibullah regime in the Kabul and Qandahar areas. Eyewitness accounts from those cities note that large numbers of Kabul troops were either killed or wounded in the attacks. In retaliation, the Arghandab, (Mohallajat), and (Panjawani) areas on the outskirts of Qandahar were heavily bombed by aircraft of the Kabul regime. All those places are considered mujahidin strongholds. The bombing caused losses of civilian life and property.

The fighting, which began on 1 July along the highway leading to Spin Boldak garrison, south of Qandahar, lasted 3 days. Last Sunday, the mujahidin shelled the regimental headquarters inside the Spin Boldak garrison. A soldier who fled the regimental center said 25 Kabul troops had been killed in the attack.

Fighting in Nangarhar, Qandahar

LD0907104188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] While firing heavy weapons in the (Koshta) District of Nangarhar Province, a group of armed extremists led by Golbuddin was crushed recently by the security forces, which were acting in cooperation with the local people. The BIA's military section reports that 33 warmongering extremists were crushed, while a reactive system [as heard] and a large amount of arms and ammunition was destroyed.

According to another report, a second group of extremists, led by Khalis, was crushed yesterday by the country's Armed Forces. As a result of this combat operation, which took place with the direct cooperation of the inhabitants of (Torghar), in the Sorkh Rud District of Nangarhar Province, six criminal extremists, including two of their leaders, were crushed, and their hiding place was destroyed.

A correspondent for BIA's military section reports from Qandahar Province that a group of armed extremists belonging to Golbuddin was captured recently in Takhteh Pol Subdistrict. The country's security forces, in cooperation with district residents, captured 14 warmongering extremists, including two of their leaders, (Mula Din Mohammad) and (Mula Gol Mohammad). A number of documents and other evidence proving their links with subversive organizations abroad were confiscated. Large quantities of surface-to-surface missiles, as well as ammunition and shells for recoilless guns, were seized from these criminals.

'Satanic' Nests Destroyed

LD0907220188 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The country's Armed Forces have dealt crushing blows to armed extremists in the Kuhestan region of Helmand Province, and have destroyed satanic enemy nests.

A BIA military correspondent reports that a number of extremists were crushed in this mopping-up operation, which was conducted in direct cooperation with the people of the region. Two DShK's, two recoilless guns, six ZK-1's [not further identified] five mortars, and a large weapon with thousands of rounds of ammunition were destroyed, as were dozens of nests and hideouts used by the extremists.

During their recent operation in Helmand Province, the country's security forces crushed a group of extremists who were disrupting public life in the Chah-e Anjir region. The BIA military section notes that the group's ringleader, Towr, and other members were crushed. The security forces in Helmand Province seized an assortment of weapons and two vehicles belonging to the group.

According to the BIA military section, criminal extremists fired surface-to-surface missiles at a residential area in the Sorkh Rud District of Nangarhar Province yesterday, martyring five of our innocent compatriots, including women and children. A house was also destroyed in this inhumane extremist action.

With their unforgivable crimes, the armed extremists have again shown their animosity to the sacred religion of Islam and our peace-loving people. The BIA military section reports that the criminal extremists fired heavy weapons at residential areas in the Asmar District of Konar Province, and on [name indistinct] District, Paktia Province. Two mosques were damaged, one person was martyred and six worshippers and two children were seriously injured. The wounded were taken to the hospital immediately and given medical treatment. Their condition is improving.

Herat, Vardak Rebels 'Crushed'

LD0907212188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Two warmongering extremist groups that tried, through their crimes, to disrupt peaceful life in Vardak and Herat Provinces have been crushed by the harsh blows of our Armed Forces.

According to the BAKHTAR military correspondent, as Vardak Province was being cleared of criminal extremists, another group of 15 extremists was crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces.

As a result of this action, which took place with the people's direct cooperation, a mortar and two recoilless guns were destroyed, and four hideouts were eliminated.

Another report notes that a warmongering group of subversives, who attempted to use terrorism to disrupt life in (Shendand) District, Herat Province, was crushed yesterday by the Armed Forces with the cooperation of district residents. During this operation, a number of extremists were crushed and a recoilless gun and several light weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

A report fron Nangarhar Province states that a convoy of weapons and ammunition that had been sent into the country was destroyed yesterday in an attack by border units. The operation took place in the Achin District of Nangarhar Province.

According to another report, the brave young men of the Waziristan tribe attacked a convoy of weapons and ammunition that the extremists had brought into our country. The convoy was struck while en route to Khowst District. The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that as a result of this attack, 5 extremists were arrested, 30 weapons and 4 rocket launchers were seized, and a quantity of other weapons and ammunition belonging to the extremists was destroyed.

Civilians Injured in Ghazni

LD1007172788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Extremist saboteurs opposed to the peaceful life of our compatriots fired heavy weapons at Ghazni yesterday.

The BAKHTAR military correspondent reports that a child was martyred, and 11 others were badly injured. A house was burned down as well.

38 Casualties in Nangarhar

LD1007164888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] A group of armed extremists that had engaged in destructive activities and caused fear in the suburbs of the (Haska Mena) and (Archin) Districts of Nangarhar Province has been crushed by the blows of the provincial security forces.

Some 28 extremists were crushed as a result of this action, and 10 were badly wounded.

Stinger Launch System Seized

LD1007172888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The security forces, in direct cooperation with the peace-loving people of Qandahar Province, recently discovered and seized a launching system for Stinger surface-to-air missiles.

BIA's military section reports that warmongering extremist groups brought this system into the country recently to shoot down transport and passenger aircraft traveling from abroad to the suburban areas of Qandahar Province.

Farah Province Rebels 'Crushed'

LD1007173588 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] An extremist group that was disrupting the peaceful lives of the residents of Jawand District in Farah Province was crushed recently by the country's security forces. The action was conducted in direct cooperation with the inhabitants of the area.

According to a report from BIA's military section, eight of these criminals, including the group's leader, were killed in the operations, while another six were badly wounded.

Rebels Overrun Position

BK1007092988 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin are reported to have captured an important military position of the Kabul regime at (Duraj Ghar) on the road from Kabul to Gardeyz. The troops of the regime fled away without putting up any resistance. And on the Kabul-Qandahar Highway, the mujahidin intercepted supply convoys proceeding toward Qandahar.

A tank and three armored vehicles were damaged in the operation. The mujahidin also ambushed a supply convoy near (Muqara) town in Ghazni Province on Sunday [3 July] last. A number of Kabul troops surrendered while a tank was damaged.

Rebels Capture 9 Posts

BK1007114488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the freedom fighters have captured six military posts in Nagahan and three in Achin areas. Six Kabul troops were killed. The freedom fighters have also captured the subdistricts of (Janda) and Moqor and Qades District headquarters in Badghis Province. In various encounters near Paghman, the freedom fighters killed a large number of troops and shot down a helicopter.

'Extremist' Groups Clash

LD1007141888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] As a result of armed clashes between two extremist groups, led by (Qazi Hesamullah) and (Kamal), in the village of (Shaknawal), in the Mohmand District of Nangarhar Province, three extremists were killed and a number of others were badly wounded.

India

Rajiv Gandhi To Begin Tour of 4 Nations 11 Jul

BK1007093888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is leaving tomorrow morning on a 10-day 4-nation tour of Jordan, Yugoslavia, Spain, and Turkey. Soon after his arrival in Jordan's capital, Amman, the prime minister will call on King Husayn and the Queen Nur. Talks will be held between the officials of the two countries on various matters, including bilateral and economic relations.

In Yugoslavia, the prime minister's discussions with the Yugoslavian leadership will center round consolidating the unity among the nonaligned nations and the ways and means to consolidate bilateral economic relationship. Agreements on information exchange, science and technology, and cooperation in the field of sports are likely to be signed.

In Spain, Mr Rajiv Gandhi will hold discussions with his counterpart Mr Gonzalez. Mr Gandhi will also go round on a sight-seeing tour. The AIR special correspondent, Radhanath Chaturvedi, says that it will be the first ever visit of any Indian prime minister to Spain.

During the last leg of his tour in Turkey, the prime minister will confer with the Turkish premier, Mr Turgut Ozal. Our correspondent adds that the 10-day visit to 4 countries of Mr Rajiv Gandhi is basically an exercise to consolidate the existing political relations and augment economic ties.

Senior Air Marshal Bypassed for Command, Resigns

BK0807091088 Hong Kong AFP in English 0418 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] New Delhi, July 8 (AFP)—The senior-most air marshal in the Indian Air Force (IAF) has resigned following the appointment of a junior as IAF chief, a Defence Ministry spokesman said here Friday.

Air Marshal M.M. Singh, chief of India's Western Air Command (WAC) and one of India's most distinguished fighter pilots, quit his post three or four days ago, the spokesman said.

The 58-year-old air marshal had been tipped to succeed Air Chief Marshal Dennis la Fontaine, but the Indian Government appointed a junior to the post June 20 in a rare case of supersession.

Air Marshal S.K. Mehra of the South-Western Air Command was appointed the new chief of air staff effective July 31 with his promotion to the rank of air chief marshal.

The Defence Ministry spokesman said Air Marshal Singh's resignation would be effective from the same date.

Newspaper reports said Friday that the government had offered him the post of chairman of the state-owned aircraft builder Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd., but that he had turned down the offer.

Officials cited past instances of supersession in the Armed Forces when asked to explain why Air Marshal Singh had been overlooked for the job of air chief, although the government usually goes by seniority.

Twenty-five of the IAF's 39 combat squadrons are grouped under Air Marshal Singh's WAC, considered the most crucial operational assignment.

Last month some newspaper reports said an alleged romantic involvement and an unsettled family life had cost Air Marshal Singh the job. Air officers reportedly protested to the government that his reputation was being deliberately tarnished.

Defense Minister on Naval Buildup, Pakistan Arms

BK0807161588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] The defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, has said that the government is keeping a constant watch on developments in the region and will continue to take appropriate steps to meet all threats.

He said it is a matter of concern that Pakistan has been accumulating sophisticated weapons at a feverish pace. The acquisition of the F-16 aircraft and possible acquisition of AWACS, Harpoons, and Exocet missiles give Pakistan a certain technological capability which we cannot ignore.

The minister was speaking at a meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of his ministry in New Delhi today. He underlined the need for self-reliance.

Mr Pant expressed satisfaction that the country has been able to establish a modern production line for a variety of weapons and equipment. He said the threat from the sea today is far greater than what it was in the past. The Indian Ocean has been militarized and the Gulf has already seen naval and air battles. Our country needs adequate naval capability to protect our seaborne trade, offshore installations and island territories.

He said efforts are being made to develop the Indian Air Force as a well balanced modern fighting force. But the Air Force is a capital intensive service and despite constraints the progress on reequipping the aircraft fleet has been satisfactory.

Prospects for U.S. Policy Change Toward Pakistan

BK0807141788 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 4 Jul 88 p 8

[Editorial: "A Shift at Last"]

[Text] One of the long-standing features of international politics has been American support for military rulers and civilian despots around the world. And the irony of it all is that American policy makers made themselves believe that it was the need to counter the Soviet threat to the "free world" that was responsible for the American indulgence of such mountebanks. There are signs at last that US policy makers are growing out of this perverse prison.

The vast improvement in US-Soviet relations has been both cause and effect. The first welcome shift in the US stance was noted when it asked Mr Marcos to quit at the peak of a popular uprising in the Philippines. Then, last year, the South Korean military junta discovered that it had lost American backing and had to make way for an elected government.

Is Gen Ziaul Haq next in the queue? Most Pakistani politicians are bound to hope that he may well be, following the warning by a sub-committee of the US House of Representatives that the flow of American aid may be affected if Gen Ziaul Haq fails to hold elections. Indeed, the mere fact that the sub-committee held hearings on "the prospects of democracy in Pakistan" can itself be taken as a new trend in American appreciation of foreign policy issues.

The change in the American mood is bound to encourage the renewed movement in Pakistan for the restoration of democracy. Obviously, as a part of her attempt to get Washington to exert pressure on Gen Ziaul Haq to move forward towards an elected government, the opposition leader, Ms Benazir Bhutto, has warned in an article in THE NEW YORK TIMES that if democracy is throttled by Gen Ziaul Haq any longer, the stability not only of Pakistan but the entire subcontinent might be endangered.

She sharply reminded the US administration that "for almost a decade US foreign and military aid to Pakistan has been the only support propping up Gen Ziaul Haq's dictatorship."

Gen Ziaul Haq will not, of course, bend easily. How tough he can be was amply seen when he rejected the pleas from some of the closest friends of Pakistan such as Saudi Arabia for clemency and executed Mr Bhutto.

Besides, the Pakistani opposition politicians must realise that it was the rising tide of the popular movement for democracy that forced Washington finally to tip the scales in the Philippines against its former dictator. The same was the case in South Korea. That kind of a movement has to be generated at home. And for that Pakistan's opposition leaders, as those elsewhere in such societies, have to climb out of their petty, parochial obsessions.

58 Gurkha 'Activists' Released Under Accord

BK0807164888 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Fifty-eight GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists detained under the antiterrorist act have been released so far as a follow up of the tripartite meeting between the union home minister, the West Bengal chief minister, and the GNLF leader in New Delhi last week.

The district magistrate, Darjeeling, told our Kurseong correspondent that the process of releasing detained GNLF activists will continue.

Meanwhile, 1 person was killed and 17 injured in a clash between two groups of GNLF militants under Kalimpong subdivision yesterday evening. With this the total number of persons killed in intraparty clashes in the last 2 days has gone up to four.

50 More 'Activists' Released

BK0907094488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The West Bengal Government has released another 50 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists. With this 110 activists arrested under the antiterrorist act from different parts of Darjeeling Hill areas have been released. Out of them 14 were women activists.

This is a follow up action of the tripartite meeting between the union home minister, Mr Buta Singh; the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu; and the GNLF leader, Mr Subhash Ghisingh. in New Delhi last week.

They have been released to make it possible for the GNLF leadership to discuss the hill council proposal in a state committee meeting scheduled in Darjeeling tomorrow. The West Bengal Government is also processing 30 other cases.

The superintendent of police, Mr P.K. Sahai, told our Siliguri correspondent that there has been no report of any untoward incident from the three hill subdivisions since last night.

Gurkhas Favor Amended Hill Council Proposals

BK1007151488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The leaders of all the frontal organizations of the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] have authorized its president, Mr Subhash Ghisingh, to discuss with the center and the West Bengal government in detail the hill council proposal and take a final decision.

Briefing newsmen in Darjeeling this afternoon after the meeting of the joint convention of the frontal organizations, Mr Ghisingh said the leaders were in favor of the hill council proposal following the verbal concessions given by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, during the tripartite meeting in Delhi on the 29th of last month.

He said these concessions related to the area, the nomenclature of the hill council, its powers, the suspension of the police raids, release of arrested persons, and replacement of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force]. He said the hill council proposal was not rejected in today's meeting as done earlier because of these concessions.

Replying to a question, Mr Ghisingh said the GNLF has not given up its demand for the inclusion of parts of Siliguri in Darjeeling District and Dooars in Jalpaiguri District and also insertion of Gurkha nomenclature in the proposed hill council.

Both the Center and the state governments must honor their assurances given during the tripartite talks, he added. Mr Ghisingh further said that he will inform the Center about the outcome of today's meeting in a day or two and go to Delhi for talks with the central and the West Bengal governments soon.

Replying to another question, the GNLF leader said that he has directed the leaders to suspend all agitation, public meetings in Darjeeling hill areas and Dooars, and not to indulge in any violence and extortion of money.

Pakistani 'Intruder' Killed in Gurdaspur

BK0907131188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead and one injured by terrorists in separate incidents since last night. The killed included a sarpanch [headman] of village Wariwala in Hoshiarpur District and a lumbardar [leader] of village Chotagarh in Faridkot District.

An employee of a religious place at a village Annapatti police station in Amritsar District was seriously injured when a terrorist opened fire at him.

An intruder from Pakistan was killed in an encounter with Border Security Force while trying to cross into India in Dehra Baba Nanak sector in Gurdaspur District last night.

A terrorist was killed in an encounter in Ludhiana last night after he and his accomplice opened fire at a police patrol party. The accomplice managed to escape.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD0807181188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1230 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Sermon by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Armed Forces acting commander in chief and Majlis speaker, at Tehran University on 8 July—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [Koranic passage omitted] Before starting our main discussion, I want to stress the comments by the esteemed minister of economic affairs and finance regarding the issues of the day.

I urge our people to pay attention to tax issues. On behalf of the tax officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran I want to emphasize that one aspect of piety in our society today is for individuals to to carry out duties toward society and the government, because violating the IRI's laws and regulations is a sin similat to other personal and religious sins.

However, regarding today's main issues, the war and the enormous crime the United States perpetrated in the Persian Gulf, I want to enlarge on my general remarks in the first sermon on the nature of world arrogance. I will explain the issue of the war concisely and briefly and provide some explanation regarding this disaster and its consequences. My remarks will also explain the statement issued this morning by the Armed Forces General Staff Headquarters in which the people were invited to prepare to go to the battlefronts.

First of all, I would like to discuss that frightful disaster, that unprecedented crime. In my view, this was one of the strangest incidents in the world. There have been many plane crashes in the world; many times 400 or 500 passengers have been killed. There have also been untold numbers of murders, wars, earthquakes, and major incidents which have killed many times this number. However, this disaster has some special features that should be seriously scrutinized because the other side is a superpower that uses the slogan "security," and claims it has come to safeguard the security of the region.

This superpower has eliminated many noble individuals and movements in the name of fighting terrorism. This superpower is dominant in many international organizations responsible for investigating such incidents, organizations located in the United States, including the United Nations, its Security Council, and many other organizations. This incident has been surrounded by many false claims, distorted remarks, deceit, and above all, it is based on a very arrogant and tyrannical conspiracy against a wronged nation that is fighting for its rights and enduring hardship.

Regardless of the circumstances surrounding the incident, it is utterly shameful that people travelling in an aircraft were blown up by a missile. They were not involved nor taking sides; they were merely flying to their destination. I do not know how such a criminal can hold up its head in the world. How can it talk of humanity, of human rights, of mercy, of decency, of civilization?

Our age is very strange from this point of view. It must be unique in history in that those who make so many claims about human rights commit such a crime. You saw that when Mr Reagan went to the Soviet Union the most important topic was the fact that some people in the USSR wanted to emigrate but were not allowed to do so. The human rights cases he raised in Russia comprised the main substance of Mr Reagan's hypocrisy and

deception there. When they are involved in hostilities with a country, they boycott that country on the pretext that that country is undemocratic and that the people do not enjoy this or that right.

Why are they fighting against Nicaragua, which is next door to them? They say some people wish to openly express their opinions but the Nicaraguan Government will not allow this. And then these very same people come here and commit this deed.

If such acts become commonplace in the world and are committed without shame, the Americans will be the ones who will suffer most. If such acts are not prohibited, any minor movement fighting against the United States will be able to obtain some weapons and shoot down a U.S. aircraft as it is taking off or landing at an airport, or place a bomb inside the aircraft, or suicidal individuals—which do exist—may take some explosives onto an aircraft and blow up themselves and the aircraft in mid air.

Right now these are the easiest acts for any terrorist to commit. It is strange that a country having hundreds of huge aircraft traveling around the world would commit such a crime. This is either due to a great desperation or is based on some foolish analyses and calculations, both of which we think the present rulers in the White House are capable.

Well, this incident took place, and world reaction continues to make news. In my view, we should accept the fact—and we experienced and are still experiencing today the same thing over the Halabjah issue—that there are many alert, vigilant individuals and writers in the world. The Americans did not want to be faced with such waves of worldwide protest.

Maybe they were not thinking. Of course, in my opinion, they planned it in such a way that they could immediately forget the matter. They thought that as soon as the incident happened—it is really unprecedented; previously they had attacked boats, ships, aircraft, or oil platforms—we would give a suitable reply.

For example, they saw that when they attacked an oil platform, another oil platform would be destroyed elsewhere. When they attacked a boat, a helicopter would crash. When they attacked a warship, a ship would be hit. They thought the Islamic Republic, being greatly prepared, would respond in some way, and as they did not have any aircraft in the region themselves, they thought another aircraft in the area might be affected.

Perhaps that was what they were thinking. Perhaps they had even prepared for such an eventuality. And if such a thing had happened, if some crude retaliation had been taken, the United States would have attained its aim and also would have been able to mobilize an extensive propaganda campaign against us, because they claimed they had meant to shoot down an F-14, whereas in our case we would not have been capable of telling such lies and our voice would not have been heard. They may have had other plans as well, but it is too early for us to speak of this. It is being analysed and we should not speak aloud about such things at the moment.

However, things did not go according to U.S. plans. We can see today that nearly all the world's radios, televisions, newspapers, and all public speakers have described this U.S. crime as horrific. However, there are exceptions and I must tell you about them. We believe that in general the mass media have reacted relatively well. They have both understood the matter and are doing their duty. Comments have been made on both sides and we must examine them now.

Those who fully understand the crime and oppose it have suggested good interpretations: madness, arrogance, a most stupid act, an idiotic act, the ugliest deed in history, the biggest mistake in U.S. history, an ugly stain on the White House which cannot be cleansed with even the purest water, a blot on U.S. history, or putting a match to the world's powder keg. They have advanced these interpretations of the crime and moreover continue to do so. They describe this crime like poets and men of literature.

On the other side there are people who, while expressing regret, want in some way to exonerate the United States from its crime. No one can refrain from expressing regret. There is no one more responsible or more hard-hearted than Mr Reagan himself, yet he also officially expressed regret and apologized. If he had not done so he would have been disgraced in front of his own wife and children. He would not have been able even to look his servant in the eye. To martyr 290 innocent people in that way and still want to hold his head high, without expressing regret, would not be possible. Of course, that itself is a fault, for it was politically motivated.

According to interpretations of some Americans and some world leaders—for example, as an appropriate defense, or the only wise decision possible at that moment, or to maintain security, or to halt fanatical radicals or to encourage reactionary shaykhs worried about the future, or the result of U.S. decisiveness in performing its mission of maintaining security—they want to impart some kind of acceptance to this act. The strange thing that has been reported—I do not know to what extent it is accurate—is that some of these polling centers claim that the opinion polls show that the majority of Americans approve of the action, saying that the captain of the cruiser performed his duty well. If this is the nation's real opinion, it is really a tragedy.

The incident itself is a tragedy, but even more terrible is that when a nation such as the United States commits such a crime, the majority of public opinion approves of such an incident. When I read that report I was immediately reminded of the curse of His Holiness Noah, who, after he had argued long with the people, judged the

people to be not sane and beyond hope. [Koranic verse omitted] In other words, we must completely abandon the hope that the American people will be able to choose sane people for its own administration and for the administration of the world. We must say the United States is now completely barren. If those opinion polls are correct, that nation has lost its purity.

What sort of people are you? How can you think that tearing to pieces 291 people with one missile... [sentence incomplete as heard] If they had suffered this disaster themselves, would they have the same opinion? What they said amounts to this: That ship, that cruiser, felt threatened. Of course, that is a lie; but let us assume it is true. It felt threatened. Well, if the people of Nicaragua feel threatened by your flights and shoot down one of your jumbo jets in the same way, would you say they had done a wise thing? Would you really say that?

If the people of the Philippines, who are fed up with the presence of your bases there, felt threatened and shot down one of your planes, would you say they had made a suitable decision? If the people of Panama, where you are now sending military forces to protect the canal, did that to your aircraft, would your judgment be the same? If so, well, we can say you are fair. However, you know and we know that if you make that claim you are (?exaggerating).

You do not judge your own opponents in that way, opponents who treat your spies—not ordinary people—like that. If someone takes an American spy hostage, you call him uncivilized, a barbarian, a terrorist, and call him all the names which should be ascribed to you. We know you people. Mrs Thatcher says the Americans were right to do this. Will she now believe it right for the Irish to do the same thing to their own planes when they feel endangered?

The United States condemned the downing of the Korean airliner inside Soviet territory, which was also flying over the territory of another country and was indeed flying over prohibited zones. They condemned it; we also condemned it because we do not accept such acts. The Russians should have forced that airliner to land somewhere. They should not have done what they did. The people who were in that airliner were innocent. If the pilot or the crew were guilty.. .[sentence incomplete as heard]

Well, at that time you Americans created a great sensation, boycotting Russian airports for 15 days. No pilot landed his plane in any Soviet airport and public mourning was declared in the United States. Now, about the people of Iran, Pakistan, Dubayy, and Korea, all those who were so innocently martyred—is there any difference between their blood and your blood, the blood of you Americans? And now, Mrs Thatcher, you call yourself a lady and you think that your female emotions give you sanctity so that others will criticize you less. What kind of a statement did you make, approving of a crime which not even a wolf would approve of? What kind of an attitude do you have, you Europeans and Americans who judge people like that?

History will condemn you. In the future, history will malign you because you have antagonized a nation. You are unhappy about a revolution because this nation has eradicated your illegitimate interests, because this nation intends to live as a free people, does not want to give in to arrogance, and wants to defend its rights by itself. You martyr many people so ruthlessly, blowing them up in midair. Can you be the leaders of the free world? Is this a wise decision? You really have to be base to talk so much; it entails an ignorance of society. Can history overlook such things? You will not find such things in history, with such results, with such judgments as you yourselves have made.

They have initiated a series of diversions; they did this from the beginning, from the very first moment. We are almost 99 percent sure of it. Based on intelligence and on previous cases, I am 99 percent sure that they already knew what kind of an airplane it was, how many passengers were in it, and where it was flying, because U.S. warships stationed off the Strait of Hormuz can easily monitor pilots' conversations with airport control towers. This is an ordinary affair and all the world knows it. They even knew the very moment when the airliner received permission to take off. They knew the characteristics of the plane. When the airliner took off, they saw it.

Well, we have our own radar; our radar systems are a great deal weaker than that of the U.S. cruiser "Vincennes", and yet we can see the difference between an Airbus and an F-14. It is like comparing a crow and a sparrow. No military expert who knows radar can make such a mistake. One of the experts in a fine analysis said that if indeed their experts had made such a mistake, then air security in the whole world would be impossible. If that is the case, similar incidents may happen at any moment all over the world. If you are telling the truth, then you must think of a remedy.

But you are lying. The problem is as you describe it. They knew it; at least they knew it the moment when they shot down the airliner. Now, we say this is far too optimistic, like some of the Americans who lie. However, suppose we say: All right, you did not know. Yet when you shot down the airliner, then you learned that they.... [sentence incomplete as heard] When they were falling, when thousands of pieces of the plane and human beings and luggage were coming down, they could see those things as they fell from the sky. They could see them floating on the water.

The Americans kept silent. When that previous engagement took place, within minutes the Americans relayed the news of the engagement by satellite. They soon transmitted it all over the world. But on this occasion

they kept silent for many hours. The captain and the commander of the ship knew it; New York and Washington, everywhere knew it and yet they did not say anything. They did not even mention the issue of the F-14. We preceded them, within 2 hours.... [sentence incomplete as heard]

We could not believe it. I was just leaving the open session [of the Majlis] to go to my office. It was a little after 1000 when information was received that our airliner had lost contact and that there had been no contact for 2 or 3 minutes. News was immediately received that the airliner had crashed in the water. It was totally unexpected.

At that very moment we received another piece of news that the U.S. cruiser had asked whether we wanted assistance or not. It had seen the crime which had taken place and was coming to help. But it was told that help was not wanted. All right, it said. So why did they not say anything for hours afterwards? And then when they did say something, they said that they had shot down an F-14. Did you not know then that you had not shot down an F-14? Four hours later at 1400 when you were announcing it, you knew that you had not shot down an F-14 and that it was an Airbus. You see how you lie! Why did you lie, saying that the airliner was out of the air corridor? Why did you lie about the airliner flying towards you in a menacing way?

A criminal can not admit his crime. These things had been planned and were not based on hasty announcements. These announcements were planned. Immediately following and even right now a group of these people in the guise of researchers and university lecturers met and held strange, diversionary discussions. They say the Iranians (?did this and that) and where, meaning that the Iranians had (?planned and colluded) such matters against them. Well, you ignorant people, could you not send a photographer or a cameraman with the first helicopter to the scene to learn what happened? We were in the area half an hour later with our helicopters from Bandar-e 'Abbas flying over the area to filming and taking photographs.

What do you mean "Where did we find all this?" One of them said that some bodies had swollen to the point that it was clear that this could not have just happened immediately. I do not know of any scientific phenomenon that could have caused this due to the atmospheric conditions and [words indistinct] and specific situation or whatever. They put together (?plans) so that they could instill doubts as to the course of events.

They are vile people and very evil. The title of Great Satan is the most respectful title which one can bestow on them. [crowd cheers] They did other things in order to portray this incident as a humane event. They are prepared to pay damages to the people, the same people who have given up everything for the sake of their religion and their path, from their sons to their blood and property and security, all they possessed. These unmanly characters think that their offer to pay damages will satisfy the people and the families. They base their offers on American values.

Reagan's expression of sorrow is to deceive the public. He is a sad case. Of what value are apologies on their own? Why all these new angles when you express your sorrow? Why do not you have the courage to admit your crime? Tell the American people that you have committed a crime and tarnished their image and their history and that they should deal with you however they wish. Why do you talk in this manner? Why is it that every time you express your sorrow there is a threat involved? You unjust people do not preserve security in the Persian Gulf. Why do you in the same breath announce you will stay in the area to preserve security? Do you call this security?

What sort of security is this when before your arrival fewer vessels were damaged, fewer people were killed, less oil was spilled, and fewer problems existed? Two countries are waging war here and they will solve their problems in some way; but your presence is aimed at preventing peace. You arrived here to block the establishment of security and to support the aggressor so that the war will continue. You should not be such liars and two-faced hypocrites. You should talk to your people properly and open your hearts to them.

They are committing further evil acts while they are busy with the recent incident—causing much wrath among the public—which are tailored made for the domestic agents of discord. The very serious and realistic message of His Holiness Grand Ayatollah Montazeri [crowd cheers] addressed to his holiness the imam, the very explicit response and recommendation that his holiness gave, as well as my explanations at the Majlis to our nation and the world, warning that the Americans were about to use some dimwits to cause an incident in hopes of obscuring this tragedy and saying that people should not act in haste, should have been analyzed together.

They concluded that these comments about the nature of Ayatollah Montazeri's message and my comments were in conflict. They also analysed the comments of the imam asking for support, and inferred that the imam believed there was conflict. They also say that some are moderates and others are hardliners. They make such remarks about the very incident that they brought about. And now they are drowning in their misdeeds and announcing that there are opposite views in Iran. No such thing! In Iran, all officials are united in following the revolutionary leadership and agree that they all should struggle against American interests. [crowd chants]

In any case, state officials, the Majlis, the government, the president, the judiciary, revolutionary foundations, the armed forces, and the IRGC are united in securing our rights or alternatively our declared path to end the

war by naming Iraq to be the aggressor. Those who claim to seek peace should know that we see no other way and are united on the method of struggle. We agree we should not give you excuses to spoil the opportunity you took to dishonor yourselves before the world. We must wait a while in a tension-free atmosphere so that the learned people of letters with their thoughts, views, and analyses can show the ugly visage of the Great Satan to the world.

Your allies will realize they are linked with such an source of evil while your enemies will realize the evil they are facing. The American people will feel ashamed that their leadership has been given to people whose soldiers do their worst against the peoples of the world. These things will be realized in time and with some exposure.

It must be made clear what the international bodies are doing. Today this is the one and only issue about which the world is expressing condemnation or at least sorrow; and we must see what the Security Council is going to do about it. If the Security Council takes a weak position on this issue, it will be disgraced just like the United States itself. [crowd cheers]

Like all people in the world who want long-lasting peace, we are now waiting to see what the Security Council will do, both on the issue of the airline and also about the war. Now you are beginning to realize what a crisis you have created in the region. Let us see whether you are prepared to admit that a warmongering country, whose recent crime led to these events, started the war. Are you prepared to condemn the United States as a country which is illegally in the region? Are you prepared to say the United States should get out of the Persian Gulf so that relative security may return to the Persian Gulf?

We do not expect the Americans to voluntarily pay reparations at the World Court. They owe us more than that. Billions of dollars of our money are frozen in the United States now. Following the [words indistinct] agreement, all the wealth that the cursed Pahlavi family took there, all the unfulfilled contracts through which we suffered major losses, all these assets are owed us by the United States. If one day it pays reparations to the Iranian nation it will have to pay a great deal.

This is only a part of our claim. We shall watch the World Court to if it will pass the test, what it will do. The money is secondary to us at the moment. The main issue is we will test these international organizations which cannot act deceptively today, so that the world will see their true nature. Either they will perform well, in which case the people will see through them once again and get after them. [sentence as heard]

The main issue is, in our opinion—O dear nation, brothers, sisters, young people, Army men, IRGC Mobilization Corps, security forces—is that this incident is not separate from the issue of the war. The issue is too great for us to see all its dimensions now. An extensive program has been formulated to rescue the Ba'th Party in order to deprive the Islamic Republic of its rights, to tell the world that no revolution can attain its rights without relying on the East or the West, and to dissuade other nations from starting independent movements in the future. They have all joined forces and entered the scene. This sort of incident is likely to happen again. Of course, this blow to the United States' reputation might make them think twice about this.

We consider the present situation as being extremely critical. The invitation by the Supreme War Support Council, today's invitation by the Armed Forces General Command Headquarters, and the imam's guidance calls upon the people to direct their capabilities and manpower toward the battlefronts. This is a very serious invitation. We are at a point where our readily available facilities must be at the fronts. If today the divisions, brigades, battalions, and support forces are below strength, if our armed forces are not at full capacity, if the country's facilities are not at the service of the war, then we should be worried that the East, West, the reactionaries, and Zionism will be able to carry out their plan to deprive us of our rights.

Today, we must be alert and aware. As the official responsible for war matters, I say it is the duty of those who can hold a rifle, particularly those who have been to the fronts and are experienced—whether they have been to the fronts or have just received training—to speedily report to dispatch bases all over the country so that we will have the manpower necessary to confront the threat that we feel is a global conspiracy. The downing of the plane was one of whose incidents and could engender more bitter incidents. There is no other way at this point than the pious and experienced forces go to the fronts. [crowd chants]

If we go to the fronts in great numbers and if they realize that we are adamant and that such bitter incidents will not bring us to our knees, they might prefer to resolve the situation by naming the aggressor or in other ways. If we do not do so, we cannot have any hope and can only gain our rights by passing through rivers of blood. This course would be dictated to us by global conditions; it would not be our choice.

I hope that world officials and officials responsible for international bodies are aware that all our people remain alert and, God willing, will carry out the strict instructions of the leadership. [passage omitted]

Majlis Speaker, Montazeri on Upgrading Forces

LD0907112388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani, acting commander in chief and speaker of the Majlis, met Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom

yesterday. They discussed various issues including the war, methods to implement the recent edict of Imam Khomeyni, and means to strengthen the General Command HQ forces.

According to the same report, the deputy leader placed 100 million rials at the disposal of Hashemi-Rafsanjani to assist the fighters of Islam and to meet their needs. The fund was allocated from popular donations.

Yesterday, Mr Iravani, the minister of economic affairs and finance, accompanied by his deputies, had a meeting with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in which Mr Iravani submitted a report on ways of managing the affairs in the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance. Grand Ayatollah Montazeri thanked them and prayed for all the servants of Islam and for the revolution. He then said: You must utilize the services of committed, charitable, and faithful individuals in collecting taxes, because they may be able to distinguish the essential cases from nonessential ones [as heard].

He also said: You must pay attention so that in collecting these taxes you do not place a burden on the low-income and the meek groups and tradesmen who have large families. Though these individuals' shops may present a good appearance, they do not have sizable incomes.

You must tax the rich and those individuals who appear to have no trade but reap large profits from major and invisible transactions. You must not tax small-scale tradesmen who just manage to make a living for themselves and their families and who, as usual, exist by taking out loans and have losses.

Further Reportage, Comment on Downing of Airbus

World Reaction to Accident

LD0807180788 Tehran IRNA in English 1759 GMT 8 Jul 88

["World People Denounce U.S. for Downing Passenger Plane"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Religious ceremonies were held by Tehran's Armenian Archbishop Ardak Manukian [name as received] here Friday for martyrdom of over 290 innocent passangers of an Iranian airliner missile-attacked by a U.S. cruiser on July 3.

Archbishop Manukian condemning criminal U.S. act said such acts can never weaken the moral of Iranian nation and Muslim combatants in their campaign against global arrogance.

Meanwhile, reports reaching here from Washington say a group of children and young adults staged a demonstration in front of the White House in protest to U.S. attack on the Iranian Airbus-300.

Some 66 innocent children were among the passengers martyred in the U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger plane over the Persian Gulf.

The young demonstrators handed a protest letter as well as their paintings concerning the recent catastrophe to the White House officials to be given to Ronald Reagan.

The demonstrators (from Muslim Society School) wearing black clothes carried placards in condemnation U.S. terrorist act. They called for an immediate withdrawal of aggressive U.S. forces from the Persian Gulf region.

Reports reaching here from Beijing say foreign students in Guandong city gathered in front of U.S. Consulate setting afire U.S. flag and Reagan's picture in protest to U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger plane.

In a statement, the students urged that a delegation should investigate the crime and also called for trial of those responsible for the catastrophe. The U.S. forces must pull out of the Persian Gulf immediately, stressed the statement.

Meanwhile, Die Gruenen (Green Party) of West Germany said in a statement that U.S. attack on a passenger plane is a crime which cannot be justified. If, it added, serious measure is not taken vis-a-vis such incident, similar crimes are likely to happen any time.

The statement said "what are U.S. forces doing in the Persian Gulf which is some 20,000 kms far from U.S. coasts." It called for immediate pull-out of the U.S. naval forces from the Persian Gulf.

Reports from Islamabad, Pakistan say the Muslim people of this country set ablaze U.S. flag in a rally in front of U.S. Culture House in Lahore.

The lecturers at the demonstration deplored U.S. unprecedented crime saying Washington is enemy number one of peace and security in Muslim regional countries.

Kuwaiti Muslims cabled a telegram to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution comdemning U.S. attack on the Iranian passenger plane.

The telegram stressing that the U.S. is major foe of Muslims announced their categorical resolution to revenge the blood of those martyred in the plane.

Kuwait's Muslim Women's Union sent a message to President 'Ali Khamene'i expressing hatred against massacre of Iranian passengers aboard the Airbus-300 by the U.S. forces. The union considered Arab reactionary regime of the Persian Gulf region as accomplices in the U.S. crime.

Meanwhile, ceremonies marking martyrdom of innocent passengers of the Iranian airliner were held in Istanbul, Turkey.

Thatcher's 'Blind Support'

LD0907193188 Tehran IRNA in English 1856 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 9, IRNA—Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher seems to be obstinate as ever in her blind support for the U.S. crime of downing an Iranian Airbus last Sunday.

There has been no response yet from the prime minister to the sharp criticisms heaped on her by Iran's acting Commander-in-Chief Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, her office spokesman told IRNA Saturday.

The British press Saturday gave extensive coverage to Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's taking to task of Thatcher during Friday prayer in Tehran yesterday, where Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani said her face would go down as "dirty in history."

Harvey Morris in a front-page article for the London INDEPENDENT quoted Iran's acting commander-in-chief as asking her if she would have still characterised the American destruction of the passenger plane as self-defence if it had been a British airliner.

"Not even a wolf would have given approval to the action," he said.

The FINANCIAL TIMES saw Hashemi-Rafsanjani's thrashing of Thatcher as her applying of "double standards" and THE GUARDIAN newspaper said that as a woman the prime minister should have "more respects for human rights."

The British prime minister has also come under attack domestically from opposition members of Parliament as well as some of her own party colleagues, because of her blind support for Washington's dastardly crime.

Even with so many details of the American account being disproved, changed and contradicted daily by the Reagan administration, Margaret Thatcher seems to be blinkered especially when it comes to the towing of U.S. line by the British prime minister.

Syrian Envoy Comments

LD0807163988 Tehran IRNA in English 1618 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—This is neither the first nor the last aggression of the U.S., said charge d'affaires of Syrian Embassy in Tehran Ahmad Nito [name as received] in a meeting with Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here Thursday.

The Syrian official was referring to U.S. missile-attack on an Iranian airliner (Airbus-300) on its way from Bandar-e 'Abbas to Dubayy on July 3. Over 290 passengers were martyred as a result of the savage U.S. act.

Nito expressed hope that Muslims would deal the final blow on Islam's foes, especially on Washington.

In response, the Iranian minister said U.S. criminal acts against Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian peoples prove global arrogance's brutality against Islam and world's freedom-loving nations.

Libyan Charge Deplores Incident

LD0907185388 Tehran IRNA in English 1817 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Damascus, July 9 IRNA—Libya's charge d'affaires in Damascus deplored last Sunday's shooting down of an Iranian Airbus 300 by a U.S. Navy cruiser, which claimed the lives of all 290 innocent passengers on board.

In a talk with IRNA today, the Libyan Embassy official termed U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf as a manifestation of neo-colonialism, calling for pull-out of all foreign forces from the waterway and closing down of their bases in the region.

The cruiser "USS Vincennes" fired two missiles at a passing Iran Air Flight 655 killing all 290 passengers including 66 children. The A-300 Airbus was on its way to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas on its regular 5-days a week shuttle.

The U.S. is undoubtedly the ring leader of the world's terrorists, he said and stressed that the revolutionary forces inside Iran and Libya will be more united in their campaign against gloabl arrogance as a result of Washington's crime.

Meanwhile, Palestinian and Syrian scientific, religious and academic figures as well as political representatives of friendly countries in Damascus, called on Iran's Embassy here Saturday and expressed condolences over the U.S. crime in the Persian Gulf.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Interviewed

LD1007144588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam by unidentified correspondent on the "Sacred Defense" program; date and place not specified—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Could you tell us why the United States committed such a horrible crime?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Greetings to the imam of the ummah and to the martyr-nurturing ummah and condolences and congratulations to the families of the innocent victims of the horrific U.S. crime. I must say that the United States' reason for purposefully attacking the Iran Air plane is not unrelated to the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf and to the reasons given for its arrival in the Persian Gulf. Generally speaking, the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf was brought about to save Saddam from his inevitable downfall, which we were witnessing 2 years ago. [passage omitted]

The timing of the attack is worthy of attention, as it followed some of our developments and problems in the battle arena, as well as the on-going aggressive trend of U.S. actions against our interests, platforms, and patrol boats. Their real aim has been to break our resistance and morale in a well coordinated approach with all international powers, particularly with the lackey agent Saddam.

The incident took place in our territorial waters, as we noted in our analyses. Such an act of aggression most definitely had to be approved by the highest U.S. authorities. This transgression of our territorial integrity is, in effect, an officially recognized act of aggression against Iran. From a legal and international viewpoint, this act has specific consequences, as outlined by international norms and rights. Even if the Airbus had been a military aircraft, the U.S. warship had no right to act aggressively and fire at it.

There is no doubt that the aircraft was a passenger airliner; it was clearly identifiable, even with the naked eye. The United States is now admitting this, but they are trying to tell us that there will be (?consequences) if we adopt the same approach as in the early revolutionary era. That is, we can judge and analyse the incident in light of remarks U.S. officials made before the revolution and their remarks after the revolution. [passage omitted]

This incident was designed to subvert our most important power—popular support for the revolutionary ideals. In the military, economic, political, and psychological context, the attack against the Airbus can be viewed as a psychological attack. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Excellency Sheykh ol-Eslam, following the U.S. fleet's unmanly attack against the Iran aircraft in the Persian Gulf, we heard many countries' reactions. Could you comment on this?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Fortunately, our innocence is coming across loud and clear. The U.S. crime and its aftermath—the United States' (?savage) approach to this crime—allowed us to explain the dimensions of the crime. Naturally, the proof of our innocence will influence all nations. Nations that rely on the United States for their independence have admitted and will admit our rightful stands. This depends on the inverse ratio of the country's dependence on the United States: The more dependent it is on the United States, the less likely it is to admit our innocence.

[Correspondent] Excellency Sheykh ol-Eslam, could you remark on the opposition taking shape in the United States over the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf, particularly following the increased tension resulting from the tragedy in the Persian Gulf?

[Sheykh ol-Eslam] Two factions in the United States oppose this move. One group objects to the U.S. presence for the sake of their own domestic competition, while another group does so for its humanitarian values and wants to halt U.S. intervention outside its borders. The latter group consists of free Americans, whose opposition is very important and valuable for us. Objections from both groups has clearly increased. [passage omitted]

Our conflict with the United States in the Persian Gulf following this incident has taken a new form. Our just position is clear to the world and any move is now justifiable. This incident has allowed all opposition factions to find more reasons for expressing their opposition to the U.S. Administration and the ruling power. [passage omitted]

Iran Air Pilots Reject U.S. Claims

LD0900105300 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Two Iranian Airbus pilots here Friday totally rejected U.S. claims that the Iranian A-300 Airbus downed by U.S. warship at the Strait of Hormuz last Sunday was flying out of her regular air-corridor.

Captain Mas'ud Sedaqat interviewed during a memorial ceremony for the martyrs of the downed Iranian jetliner added that he, too, has flown quite often through the Bandar-e 'Abbas-Dubayy air corridor and that the passage is not a war zone. He said Captain Mohsen Rezayan was highly skilled and had 15 years of flight experience.

Captain Sedaqat said the same corridor was and is regularly used by passenger planes everyday.

Another Airbus pilot, Captain Bahram Behzad-Nya, said that all Iranian pilots flying over the region always tune in to emergency frequency 121.5, the one used by the U.S. naval fleet. He said therefore, the U.S. claim that the "USS Vincennes" had warned the Airbus was unfounded.

Captain Behzad-Nyi ruled out the suggestion of the aircraft having been mistaken for an F-14. He said the ultra modern radar equipment of the U.S. ship can distinguish very easily.

Pentagon 'Cover-Up' Suspected

LD0907155288 Tehran IRNA in English 1543 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 9, IRNA—The latest admission by the Pentagon that it has had radio exchanges with Iranian F-14's casts further doubts over American excuses for downing an Iranian passenger airliner last Sunday.

The Pentagon revealed Thursday, that radio radio contacts were exchanged between its cruiser "USS Halsey" and F-14's guarding an Iranian oil tanker from Iraqi air attack, the day prior to the "USS Vincennes" blasted the routine 5-days a week Iran Air Flight 655 out of the sky.

The regular use of F-14s by Iran as interceptors to ward off Iraqi raids presents no direct threat to the U.S. fleet and the Pentagon acknowledged the "Halsey" only sent a warning flare to the planes after coming nearer than the Airbus when it was shot down.

The disclosure raises further questions about the original U.S. claim that it had somehow mistaken the Airbus A-300 for an F-14, a plane quarter of its size and with a flight speed more than double of the commercial airliner, and suggests that Pentagon is desperately trying to cover-up its criminal involvement.

According to the London daily "INDEPENDENT" Saturday, the Pentagon like other U.S. institutions has a "long history of cover-ups, misleading statements and downright lies" and its position over the Airbus massacre has been no different.

Chairman of Joint Chief-of-Staffs Admiral William Crowe faced the "most humiliating moment of his career," it said, in having to confirm the downing of the plane but was "not going to admit defeat" and deliberately misled the public.

The reason was the "short term gain" in deflecting public opinion. He "knew his task was to defend the institution of the Pentagon as well as his men."

While much of Crowe's assertions have already been disproved, the full extent of his deliberate concealment and twisting of facts, the paper felt, would not be known until after the Pentagon report.

As for the American public being hoodwinked, it believed, that the admiral's "Menu of misinformation and incomplete explanations" was a dish they are unwilling to swallow.

The Pentagon had a fated "Albatross curse" and was facing "perhaps even a tougher" time than the exposure of CIA dirty tricks in the 1970s.

On fateful July 3, An Iranian Airbus flying through international air traffic corridor S-59, enroute to Dubayy from Bandar-e 'Abbas was criminally blasted in mid-air by two missiles from the "USS Vincennes," which has a proven record in U.S. state terrorism.

There were no survivors among the 290 passengers and crew on board which also included 66 children and 38 foreigners.

Security Council Plans Debate

LD0907065788 Tehran IRNA in English 0622 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 9, IRNA—The reputation of the Security Council as an intended honest broker in international disputes could rise or fall by Iran's move to censure the U.S. for its unwillingness to accept responsibility for shooting down a scheduled Iran Air passenger plane, on July 3.

The Security Council is set to meet Tuesday to debate the move, the five permanent members having always blocked resolutions against them.

The United Nations Association in London, an independent group supportive of the use of the Security Council as an international forum, is doubtful of a resolution being passed against the U.S. unless it was very mild and fully expects it to use its veto.

Nicaragua is a frequent example of failing to gain a Security Council condemnation of the U.S. for its hostilities against the sovereign country although it did eventually achieve success at the International Court of Justice after years of legal argument.

The British Foreign Office has said that it was not letting known its stance over the Airbus until the meeting in New York, but judging by Prime Minister Thatcher's firm support for the American action is thought likely to join the U.S. in any veto decision.

It is the right of every member of the U.N. to raise matters with the Security Council but need to work with one or several of the 15 permanent and non-permanent members and may not even reach the stage of proposing a resolution for debate. [sentence as received]

Meetings can be terminated after discussions are raised or may result in a statement from the acting president, who this month is Brazil, rather than presenting a formal motion for voting.

Apart from the five permanent members of the U.S., Britain, France, China and the Soviet Union, the other nine non-permanent members to consider the issue are Algeria, Argentina, Italy, Japan, Nepal, Senegal, West Germany, Yugoslavia and Zambia.

Velayati Departs for UN Debate

LD1007070688 Tehran IRNA in English 0658 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—UN Security Council is to investigate the downing of an Iran Air Airbus July 3 by U.S. warship "USS Vincennes" which killed all of her 290 passengers on board. Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for New York Sunday and another delegation from the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization left for Geneva on the same day to attend a session of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on the same day.

"The council faces one of the major tests of its political history. The outcome of the session will show how firmly it holds on to the UN Charter," Velayati said commenting on the forthcoming session prior to departure.

However, he added, in the light of council's past performance and also due to its peculiar build-up Iran is not too optimistic on the outcome of the session, but noted that Iran would like to see how the council tackles the issue which, he said, is the most obvious case of violation of basic rights of human beings and countries.

Interior Minister at Memorial

LD0907185088 Tehran IRNA in English 1815 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—A ceremony was held here today to commemorate the martyrdom of passengers of Iran Air Flight 655, which was criminally blasted over the Strait of Hormuz last Sunday by two missiles fired from the battleship "USS Vincennes."

In the ceremony held at Ark Mosque, Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi considered the crime as an act in line with global arrogance's moves against Islam and the Islamic Revolution.

Representatives from the offices of Imam Khomeyni and Ayatollah Montazeri, a number of ulema, several military and civil officials, families of martyrs, and people from all walks of life were present in the ceremony.

Chanting slogans such as "Down with America", the participants expressed their wrath and hatred towards the U.S. Administration as the real designer of plots against Iranian Muslims.

The U.S. fleet fired two missiles at the Iranian Airbus A-300 martyring all 290 passengers on board, incuding 66 children and 38 foreigners. The accident aroused the wrath and hatred of people around the world against the Great Satan (U.S.).

More Bodies Recovered

LD0907171188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] In the continuing operations by frogmen and relief workers of the Army and the IRGC of the first naval region to find the martyrs of the tragic attack on the Iranian airliner and pieces of the plane, the bodies of five more martyrs of this horrendous crime were recovered from the water this morning.

A Bandar-e 'Abbas Central News Unit correspondent reports that one martyr who was recovered today was from Ra's al-Khaymah, one of the United Arab Emirates. The bodies were transferred from Hangam island to Bandar-e 'Abbas.

This morning more pieces of the Iranian Airbus were recovered by Army frogmen of the first naval region.

Draft on Confidence Vote Proceeding Approved

LD1007115788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, at the Majlis open session this morning a draft bill for correcting Articles 144 and 145 of the Majlis Presidium on casting votes of confidence for the prime minister and the cabinet was submitted to the Majlis as a doubly urgent issue. Its doubly urgent priority was approved.

The proposed closing of the Majlis commission for the organizations affilliated with the Prime Ministry and also merging this with related Majlis commissions at double-urgent priority was discussed in the presence of the Council of Guardians, who approved it.

A report on the research commission for credentials of the deputy to Sari was submitted. His credentials were approved by vote.

Further on Proceedings Bill

LD1007152188 Tehran IRNA in English 1509 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—The Majlis (Islamic Consultative Assembly) today passed the two-starred urgency bill for debating a legal draft which, if approved, will exempt Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi from introducing his cabinet to the Parliament.

The 145 article of the Majlis internal regulations requires the prime minister to introduce his Cabinet within a week from receiving the vote of confidence from the Majlis. The Majlis is to debate the draft Monday.

The legal draft, proposed by 15 Majlis deputies, cited the special conditions prevailing in the country and the proximity of presidential elections as reasons for suggesting the exemption of the premier from introducing his cabinet, only in the third term of the Majlis. However this will be an exemption, rather than a rule.

UK 'Indirect Arms Sales' to Iraq Possible

LD0907160088 Tehran IRNA in English 1549 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] London, July 9, IRNA—Britain normally insists upon end-user certificates for export orders but is unprepared to say if this specifically applies to its new massive arms deal with the regime ruling Hijaz.

"We are not able to discuss it in any way. The customer has requested that it not be discussed," a Defence Ministry spokesman told IRNA Saturday.

The new weaponry deal is being put on as including unspecified "additional aircraft, a construction programme and specialised Navy vessels" and estimated to be worth perhaps over dollars 20 billion.

It follows Britain's last previous biggest ever export order with Riyadh two years ago worth some dollars 9 billion and is being speculated to cover more Tornado fighters, two military bases, helicopters and minesweepers, but it is the miscellaneous equipment and services that suggest some may be heading for Ba'thist Baghdad.

Saudi Arabia along with Kuwait has been the major Arab financial backer of the Iraqi regime in its war against Islamic Iran, and with Britain seen as desparate for exports to offset its widening trade gap (with Baghdad), indirect arms sales could prove mutually beneficial to both countries.

The timing of the new deal coming on the heels of the delivery of 132 aircraft to Riyadh has further increased speculation and coincides with the Iraqi forces use of new equipment, including unidentified hovercraft.

The contract was formally agreed between the Saudi Defence Minister Sultan ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the U.K. Defence Secretary last Sunday and was only revealed by a report in THE WASHINGTON POST Friday. The U.S. newspaper said that the deal involved up to 100 Tornado interceptor planes, two Tornado bases and minesweeping vessels and quoted U.S. Congressional sources estimating the package to be worth over dollars 20 billion.

After the disclosure by the U.S. daily, the British Defence Ministry announced the deal Friday but refused to specify what equipment was involved, other than the "supply of additional aircraft, a construction programme and specialised Navy vessels."

Reports of Purchase of U.S. Helicopters Denied

LD1007073588 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Madrid, July 10, IRNA—Iran's Ambassador to Madrid Hadi Soleymani-Pur here Saturday categorically rejected Western media reports alleging that he had been involved in purchase of 10 military helicopters from the United States.

Describing the allegations as "fabrications", he told IRNA that such reports aim at enabling the Zionists and imperialists to cover up the realities and to minimize the horrifying effects of the U.S. sales of massive weapons to the shaykhdoms of the Persian Gulf on world public opinion.

The ambassador added the allegations involve Spain's royal family on the one hand and the Islamic Republic of Iran on the other for marring the good relations between the two countries.

Western media last week claimed that U.S. customs officers in Miami have arrested a Briton charged with attempts for illegal sales of 10 U.S. military helicopters to Iran. The British national is also accused of collaboration with the Iranian ambassador to Madrid.

Commander Denies Iraqi Claim of Downing Plane

LD0907092988 Tehran IRNA in English 0903 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—An Iranian Air Force operational commander here Saturday categorically denied Baghdad claims that it downed an Iranian fighter Saturday morning.

The commander describing the claim as "pure fabrication" said that on Friday and Saturday all Iranian fighters had returned safely to their bases after successfully carrying out their missions.

The Baghdad regime has claimed that it downed an Iranian fighter early Saturday morning over the operational region of its Seventh Corps.

IRGC Issues Communique Calling for Volunteers

LD0907124088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] In the wake of the first communique of the Armed Forces General command HQ and announcements reaffirming a show of force by the government and the nation to continue the sacred defense to the last bullet and the last person, the IRGC General Command HQ issued a communique which states:

All forces, bases, and wings of the IRGC, as well as the resistance bases of the IRGC mobilization of the oppressed units, are prepared to accept, train, organize, and expeditiously dispatch popular volunteer forces to the battlefronts.

The IRGC invites all valiant youth and selfless mobilization personnel of the country to realize the sensitive nature of the situation at this juncture, and rise to defend the beloved Islam and the proud country of Iran by rushing to the battlefronts. The IRGC urges all persons capable of bearing weapons and going to the battlefronts to immediately report to IRGC registration centers in order support the operational units already at the battlefronts.

It is urged that all honorary IRGC personnel and trained mobilization of the oppressed personnel of the Malek-e Ashtar project, as well as those with armory training, to report to their district combat units or regional IRGC bases and adjuncts throughout the country to be equipped for dispatch to the fronts.

The IRGC announces its readiness to dispatch volunteers to the fronts in 45-day and 1-month periods, and invites those who have not yet been trained in military techniques to register with the resistance ranks of the IRGC Mobilization of the Oppressed units.

Forces Leave for Fronts

LD1007122288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] In the wake of communiques issued by the War Support Headquarters and the General Command HQ of the armed forces on the need for fresh popular forces on the battlefields, the dispatch of forces continues throughout the country.

According to reports from the Central News Unit, a large number of mobilization forces from Kerman and Bushehr Provinces left this morning for the battle fronts of the country. Furthermore, a large number of combat skilled forces of the IRGC Ministry left Tehran this morning, under the codename "Mohammad, Peace Be Upon Him, Corps." This was organized in 24 hours in line with the needs of the fronts. The managers and organizers of the workshops and plants under the ministry guaranteed no production losses in the absence of the dear brothers at the battlefronts.

This morning, a well-placed military source pointed out that the battle fronts of the right against wrong still require more volunteer and skilled forces. Moreover, it is necessary for such personnel to join their brothers at the battle fronts.

Tehran University Volunteers

LD1007132588 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Editorial Report] Tehran domestic service in Persian at 1030 GMT on 10 July carries a 4-minute report on the continuing departure of fresh forces for the battlefronts. An unidentified reporter says that following the General Command Headquarters' call-up, thousands of mobilization forces throughout the country are departing for the fronts.

Thousands of Mohammad Corps combat forces from Tehran University this morning left for the fronts, he says. In the departure ceremonies, the reporter notes, the mobilization forces chanted slogans and affirmed their determination to continue the holy defense until the Saddam regime falls.

An unidentified person tells the reporter it is every able-bodied person's duty to go to the battlefronts. Another individual says that it is every faithful person's duty to rush to the fronts and that anyone who is not prepared to fight for Islam now will be shamed before the martyrs on judgment day.

More Units Depart

LD1007193988 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] In continuation of the extensive move of popular forces to the fronts, a large group of fresh mobilization forces from Gorgan, Bushehr, (Dashtestan), and Firoz Kuh chanting "Death, death until victory" left for the battlefronts today to join the capable forces of Islam.

An informed military source has stated that the battlefronts continue to need fresh forces. Warriors of Islam expect support from the popular forces in order to continue their holy battle until final victory.

Commentary on Need for Mobilization Forces

LD0907140188 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1058 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The need for an extensive presence at the battlefronts is the title of our first political commentary.

On Thursday an announcement was issued by the Armed Forces General Command. The announcement described the present situation at the fronts and the issue of the imposed war. The people were called upon to take go to the battlefronts en masse and to strengthen operational units in order to ensure that they do not miss the opportunity to defend Islam and the country. Yesterday the acting commander in chief of the armed forces

emphasized that this invitation is very serious and that all the capabilities and forces should be directed toward the battlefronts as soon as possible.

Following that invitation and the repeated urgings of the officials responsible for the war—calling upon the people to be present at the fronts—the point to be considered is the critical nature of the imposed war at present and the need for fresh forces at the battlefronts. The 'Aflaqi regime which has been receiving support from world arrogance during the past few months has succeeded in achieving some successes. Meanwhile, there are greater threats from the enemy and its supporters.

To neutralize these threats and to bring about a new and positive transformation at the battlefronts we have an immediate need to strengthening the front lines and to mobilize all capabilities and resources of the country in the service of the imposed war.

At the same time, following the changes that have come about in the war command, work on the organization and correct guidance of these capabilities, in keeping with present needs and conditions as well as future programs and goals should be started. Any change in the war fronts will be the result of preparing the groundwork and the creation of necessary means. It is simplistic to think that merely setting up a new organization and order in the war command can effect great changes at the battlefronts and ensure future victories.

While proper planning and organization for the utilization of capabilities and forces and for making use of the country's resources in the service of the imposed war is very important and vital, only the dispatch of forces and the strengthening of the fronts can guarantee the success of these plans. Any of these without the other cannot bring about the fundamental changes we need.

In general, any commander needs forces in order to successfully implement war plans and the forces also need a skillful and experienced commander so that the best use is made of their strength and capability.

Our people would be able to achieve final victory only if there is such a fundamental change in the imposed war. At the moment, when the acting commander in chief of the Armed Forces and the reorganization and mobilization of all the capabilities of the country in the service of the war is about to take a major and significant step, it is up to the Muslim people of the country to take another major and complementary step: a major movement toward the battlefronts in order to regain the initiative. The people expect the officials of the country to devote all their efforts to the service of the war so that we can witness a great change at the battlefronts.

They also expect the officials to make detailed and calculated plans, the proper execution of which will result in victory. This is a legitimate demand by the people and the fighters from the war officials. However, this does not mean they should patiently await a comprehensive war plan or expect the war command to initiate military moves on the basis of careful and detailed programs. At the moment, the situation at the battlefronts demands the active and extensive presence of the fighting forces.

The fighters who have been in battle and who are experienced are dutybound to be present at the battlefronts, and those who have the ability to carry arms should report to training centers and relevant units. The mobilization of the oppressed and the trained forces should report to the units and, with their presence at the fronts, they should flesh out the defense lines of the country, so that they can prevent the futile attempts of the Ba'thist enemy. At the moment, the war officials are more than ever in need of human resources.

On the other hand, the permanent presence of a large number of experienced and elite forces who have great operational ability and who have been tested in the heat of battle can be regarded as a major asset in the planning of the war and can form the basis for any military operation. These special forces, with their distinct capability, should be permanently and constantly at the service of the war command until the end of the war. It is only under such conditions that those who are responsible for the conduct of the war and the war commanders can, through careful and calculated plans, take effective steps in the execution of the war.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,257

LD0807174288 Tehran IRNA in English 1714 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Iranian jets heavily pounded Iraqi troop concentration sites, strongholds and armoured equipment in Panjwin and Al-Faw operational regions and south of Minu Island in nine sorties today, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy. All planes returned safely to bases, said a military communique here today.

The 3257th Joint Staff communique added that Iranian fighter planes also reconnoitered 14 foreign vessles in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Thursday, while Iranian naval craft checked movements of three Iraqi boats near Al-'Amayah platforms.

Iraqi positions, concentration sites, armoured equipment and gun emplacements throughout the war theaters were under artillery fire of the Iranian combatants Thursday, sustaining considerable casualties and losses.

Muslim combatants forced an Iraqi patrol unit to flee form Qasr-e Shirin operational region with the latter sustaining some casualties. Movements of enemy's

motorised and armoured columns were under Iranian artillery fire in Hajj 'Umran, Sar Dasht, Panjwin, Sumar, Naft-e Shah, Meymeh and Hoseyniyeh operational zones.

An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when artillery fire of the Iranian Gendarmerie forces destroyed several enemy posistions Thursday, concluded the communique.

Iraqi Plane Overflies Ilam

LD0907105788 Tehran IRNA in English 1044 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Ilam, July 9, IRNA—An Iraqi plane violated the airspace of cities of this western province Saturday morning breaking the sound barrier over the provincial capital of Ilam. The Iraqi plane was repelled by the heavy fire of the Iranian anti-aircraft guns.

Jets Bomb Iraqi Forces

LD0907115388 Tehran IRNA In English 1111 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in 13 separate sorties heavily bombed positions of Iraq's 1st, 3rd and 7th Corps in Al-Faw, Sar Dasht and Shalamcheh operational regions Saturday, inflicting substantial casualties and iosses on the enemy.

Announcing the above here today, a Joint Staff communique said that the fighters returned safely to bases after their missions at 05:30, 07:05, 07:15, 08:55, 09:00, 10:00, 10:10, 10:46, 11:00, 12:15, 12:20, 13:00 and 13:10 hours local time (02:00, 03:35, 03:45, 05:25, 05:30, 06:30, 06:40, 07:16, 07:30, 08:45, 08:50, 09:30 and 09:40 GMT).

Communique No 3,258

LD0907172488 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 9, IRNA—Iraqi positions and strongholds in Al-Faw, Shalamcheh, Sar Dasht, Zobeydah, Tib and Mawat operational theaters were heavily pounded in 21 sorties by Iranian jets from 05:30 to 16:25 hours (02:00 to 14:55 GMT) today, said a military communique here.

Communique No. 3258 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces added Saturday that all Iranian planes returned safely to bases after disarraying enemy troops and equipment.

In the southern waters Friday, Iranian jets reconnoitered 18 cargo vessels, oil tankers and foreign warships during their routine patrol missions in the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

Iranian naval forces, controlling navigation in the southern waters, checked movements of four Iraqi boats near Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah platforms as well as in the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway Friday.

Iraqi troops, in an attempted assault yesterday, tried to retake Bolfat Heights [as received], opposite to Sar Dasht operational region, northwestern theatre, but were forced to retreat when Muslim forces pulverized their front units.

Three Iraqi patrol units came under Iranian artillery fire Friday in the Panjwin operational zone and fled the area sustaining some casualties. Attempts by two other enemy patrol units were suppressed by the Muslim combatants in Salehabad region on the same day.

Iranian combatants checked and brought under fire movements and relocation activities of Iraqi motorized columns especially in Helaleh, Mehran, Nahr 'Anbar, Sharhani and east of Basra operational regions, inflicting considerable casualties and losses on the Ba'thist troops, concluded the communique.

Communique No 3,259

LD1007162988 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 10, IRNA—Iranian jet fighters in 13 separate sorties heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites in Shiller [name as received], Al-Faw and Shalamcheh operational theaters Sunday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy.

The 3259th Joint Staff communique, announcing the above, reported here today that all fighers returned safely to bases after the bombing missions which occured at 07:15, 07:20, 08:10, 08:20, 10:25, 11:10, 11:15, 11:40, 11:45, 11:50, 12:05, 12:10 and 12:20 hours local time (03:45, 03:50, 04:40, 04:50, 06:55, 07:40, 07:45, 08:10, 08:15, 08:20, 08:35, 08:40 and 08:50 GMT).

Iraqi forces deployed on the western bank of the Arvand River continued shelling the southern Iranian port cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr across the banks and also the Khosrowabad region over the past 24 hours, as a result of which some houses were damaged.

Iran's naval units, in addition to controlling shipping in the Persian Gulf yesterday, closely monitored movement of three Iraqi vessles between the Khawr 'Abdallah waterway and Al-Bakr and Al-'Amayah oil platforms.

On Saturday, exchange of artillery and tank fire continued throughout the battlefields as a result of which an undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire suppressed Iraqi patrol operations in Panjwin, Qasr-e Shirin and Faqqeh yesterday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and four enemy bunkers, an observation post and an anti-aircraft gun emplacement were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Saturday.

Activities of Iraqi tank squadrons in Panjwin, Shaykh Shalkhan [name as received], Nahr 'Anbar, Meymeh and Yebis were checked by Iranian artillery fire yesterday, concluded the communique.

The Joint Staff communique number 3259 released here Sunday also said Iranian pilots heavily bombed Iraqi positions in Nahr Shafar, Al-Faw, Shalamcheh and the region opposite Sar Dasht at 11:05, 11:10 and 14:15 today.

The Iranian jetfighters returned safetly to the bases after inflicting substantial casualties on the enemy forces, it said.

Iraq Chemically Bombs Cities

LD0807174688 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Tehran, July 8, IRNA—Iraqi warplanes dropped chemical bombs on southern cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan and Khosrowabad border region in several sorties Thursday night and Friday morning.

According to repors reaching here from the southern war sectors the said areas were also subjected to heavy artillery fire of the Iraqi troops over the same period.

Chemical Bombs Injure 150

LD1007172388 Tehran IRNA in English 1649 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 10, IRNA—A war refugee was martyred and some 150 others were injured when Iraqi warplanes fired four chemical rockets at a refugee camp in Baneh Sunday morning.

A group of injured were treated as outpatients and discharged, while the rest suffering from mustard and nerve gases were sent to nearby hospitals. Anti-chemical units are actively decontaminating the region.

Baneh refugee camp was chemically bombed by Iraqi warplanes at 08:30 (05:00 GMT) today. The number of the injured was earlier announced at about 12 people.

Iraq Uses Toxic Gas on Marivan

LD1007174288 Tehran IRNA in English 1727 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Sanandaj, Kordestan Prov., July 10, IRNA—Intruding Iraqi warplanes dropped conventional and chemical bombs on two villages of Marivan (Kordestan Prov.) at 06:30 and 12:00 hours local time (03:00 and 08:30 GMT) today. As a result of the criminal act, 12 villagers were injured, among them a number of women and children.

A medical team successfully operated on a woman, in her eighth month of pregnancy, who was hit by pieces of shrapnel, and safely delivered the child. The infant is now kept under special care.

Earlier in the day, Iraqi warplanes had chemically bombarded the war refugee camp in Baneh (Kordestan Prov.), wounding 150 war refugees and martrying one.

Pakistan

Protesters Burn U.S. Flags Over Plane Downing

BK0807140188 Hong Kong AFP in English 1315 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 8 (AFP)—Some 300 people burnt U.S. flags in a peaceful demonstration in Lahore over the downing of an Iranian airliner by U.S. forces in the Gulf, press reports said here Friday [8 July].

The demonstrators, including members of a pro-Iranian Shi'ite group as well as opposition activists, carried anti-U.S. placards and banners during the protest Thursday outside the American Centre in Lahore, the NATION daily said.

They condemned the U.S. missile attack on the plane Sunday which killed all 298 people on board and described American Centres, which are mainly language schools, as "centres of espionage against Islam," the newspaper said.

The demonstrators were outnumbered by riot police, the paper said.

In November 1979, several hundred religious fanatics attacked and set fire to the U.S. mission in Islamabad and American Centres in other cities.

Six people died in the attacks, which were sparked off by allegations that the United States was behind the occupation by extremists of the Khana-i-Kaaba mosque in Mecca. After the incident 309 Americans were evacuated from Pakistan.

Pakistan, home to about 20 mostly pro-Iranian Shiites [as received], maintains a neutral policy in the Gulf war.

Reportage on Visit by UN Envoy Diego Cordovez

Briefs Yaqub Khan

BK0807155388 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Jul 88

[Excerpt] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, met with with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan in Islamabad this evening. During the meeting he briefed the

foreign minister on the outcome of his talks with the Kabul regime authorities. Among other things considered during the meeting was the working of the UN Good Office Mission on Afghanistan and Pakistan. [passage omitted]

Holds News Conference

BK0907163088 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative on the settlement in Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, has suggested the setting up of a national government for peace and reconstruction in Afghanistan consisting of Afghans of recognized independence and impartiality.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad today, he said such a government may be set up by the 1st of September with simultaneous effective cease-fire. A list of the personalities who would comprise such a government may be prepared on the basis of hard consultations among all groups of Afghans. The national government would also be responsible for conducting the affairs of the state including arrangements for the return of the refugees.

About the prisoners of war, he said it has been agreed that the question should be left to the International Committee of Red Cross.

Leaves for New York 10 Jul

BK1007120488 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's representative on settlement in Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, left Islamabad for New York today at the end of his visit to the region. During his visit, Mr Cordovez also went to Kabul. He held discussions in Islamabad and the Afghan capital on matters relating to the implementation of the Geneva accord.

Foreign Minister's Trip to Iran Postponed

BK0907042888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] It has been officially announced in Islamabad that the Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan's planned visit to Iran has been postponed because his Iranian counterpart, Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati, is leaving for New York to attend the UN Security Council debate on the downing of the Iranian passenger airliner. A convenient date for the visit will be fixed later.

Yaqub Khan Departs for Saudi Arabia 9 Jul

BK0907064188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 9 Jul 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Islamabad this morning on a 3-day official visit to Saudi Arabia at the invitation of his Saudi counterpart Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. During his stay in Saudi Arabia, the foreign minister will call on King Fahd Ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and convey to him a message of goodwill and good wishes from President Mohammad Ziaul Haq.

President Criticized for Dissolving Parliament

BK1007133488 Hong Kong AFP in English 1241 GMT 10 Jul 88

[Text] Islamabad, July 10 (AFP)—Three senators have hit out at President Mohammad Ziaul Haq for his May 29 decision to dissolve the National Assembly, press reports said Sunday.

During a Senate session Saturday, Senators Javed Jabbar, Khurshid Ahmed and Tariq Chaudhry described General Ziaul Haq's action as "a reversal of the democratic process in the country," the reports said.

The senators said Gen. Ziaul Haq had violated the Constitution by not announcing a date for new elections, which must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the National Assembly.

It was the first Senate session since Gen. Ziaul Haq dissolved the national and provincial assemblies and dismissed Prime Minister Mohammed Khan Junejo's government for alleged corruption and failure to Islamize the law.

The Senate, less powerful than the Assembly, was not affected by the move.

Gen. Ziaul Haq promised Thursday to announce a schedule for general elections within a fortnight, paving the way for polls by the end of August.

The three senators criticised the president for abusing his powers in disbanding the assemblies, saying the circumstances he cited for taking the action were "not justified," the reports said.

Mr. Jabbar was quoted as saying the "May 29 act has made the Senate an orphan of the democratic process." He added: "It is unfortunate that the elected institutions were removed with one stroke of the pen."

He said the president, under the Constitution, could dissolve the National Assembly only in "the gravest and rarest circumstances," which, the senator said, had not been present.

The press quoted Mr. Ahmed as saying it was "strange that assemblies were dissolved in the name of corruption and then one of the chief ministers of the provinces was appointed caretaker chief minister and 10 of the 17-member Cabinet were taken in the new caretaker Cabinet."

The Senate is to meet again late Sunday.